ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

SECOND TO SEVENTEENTH REPORTS ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992–1993

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-SIXTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 7A (A/46/7/Add.1–16)

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NOTE

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DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.1

Second report

Review of translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa

[Original: English]

[14 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on the review of translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (A/C.5/46/19). During the consideration of the question, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that in section II of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to make proposals in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 on the improvement of conference services in ECA, including the provision of permanent staff for interpretation, and decided to consider again the question at its forty-sixth session.

3. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the note, the vacancy rate at the ECA translation services unit was 33 per cent at 31 August 1991, compared with 41 per cent in 1990. The Committee notes that in order to find a more durable solution to the problems, it is proposed to re-establish a training programme for translators to be recruited primarily for ECA. Training would be offered to five persons each year for each of the three ECA official languages, namely Arabic, English and French, at existing African training institutions. The training course would start in September and continue until May of the next year. At the end of the course, students would sit for the regular world-wide examination for translators/précis-writers. Successful candidates would be required to serve an initial assignment for a specified period in ECA. The Committee further notes that the costs of these arrangements would comprise fees to be paid to education institutions ($5,500 per student, or $82,500 per year), stipends to students ($1,700 per person/per month, or $229,500 per year) and travel expenses of students between their home country and the contracted institution ($2,900 per student, or $43,500 per year). The Committee recalls that the above estimates have been used in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, which includes in section 23 (Economic Commission for Africa) a provision of $710,700 for the establishment of the training programme for translators at ECA. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of this amount in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ with a view to strengthening the ECA conference services and providing qualified staff for translation.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that successful candidates in the translator/précis-writer competitive examination often leave ECA following completion of a few years service. The Committee firmly believes that the Secretary-General should propose measures to resolve this problem on a

permanent basis, otherwise the conference services at ECA will continue to be seriously affected by the frequent movements of staff. The proposed arrangements are not a solution because they are tantamount to a training programme for staff who might go elsewhere to work. To this end, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should explore possibilities to reinforce contractual obligations of the successful candidates vis-à-vis the Organization to stay longer in ECA. There is a need for better coordination between Headquarters and ECA with regard to the training, placement and rotation of translators, giving priority to filling vacancies at ECA.

5. With regard to interpretation services, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the current practice of using freelance interpreters for ECA meetings and conferences is not efficient. The Committee understands, for example, that not all formal meetings at ECA headquarters are being covered in the required official languages. The Committee therefore recommends that the level of conference services at ECA be reassessed following completion of the additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa to determine whether it would require full-time interpreters at ECA who could be redeployed elsewhere for short periods, as necessary.

6. With regard to other conference services, the Advisory Committee notes that the editing functions are at present being performed by a translator. The Committee is of the view that there is an urgent need for editing; in this connection it recalls that it has recommended approval of a P-4 post of editor in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/ The Committee trusts that the proposed establishment of an Editorial Unit at ECA, effective 1 January 1992, will significantly improve the quality of ECA conference services.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 23.17.

2/ Ibid., para. 23.16.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.2

Third report

Revised estimates under section 27 (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)

[Original: English]

[15 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/18) containing in its annex the proposed programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the revised resource requirements for the biennium 1992-1993. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. As stated in paragraph 27.2 of the annex to the Secretary-General's report, "the proposed programme of work of ESCWA is derived from programme 34, Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6/Rev.1)". The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed programme of work has not been discussed by the Commission, its sixteenth session having been postponed from April 1991 until April 1992. Rather, the proposed programme of work is a provisional one, based, in large measure, on the programme of work adopted for the biennium 1990-1991. It represents an effort on the part of the secretariat of ESCWA to provide a legal basis for the continuation of the Commission's work and to remain productively employed.

3. That being said, the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's revised estimate of $51,630,000 for section 27 (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), does not, in fact, represent an exact indication of the resources required by the Commission for the biennium 1992-1993; that can only be determined on the basis of the Commission's decision concerning its programme of work, as well as its decision concerning its location. In this connection, the Committee notes from paragraph 27.1 of the annex to the Secretary-General's report that the matter will be discussed by the Commission at its forthcoming sixteenth session.

4. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 27.1 that "the secretariat [of ESCWA] has been temporarily moved to Amman, where all internationally recruited staff have been regrouped since August 1991". In response to its inquiry, the Committee was informed that approximately 95 members of the local-level staff of the Commission remain at Baghdad. The Committee was also informed that, in the absence of a decision concerning the Commission's location, staff costs have been estimated on the basis of requirements for Baghdad; certain other operational costs such as the rental and maintenance of premises relate to both Baghdad and Amman.

5. While appreciating the efforts of the Commission's staff as well as the need for an appropriation for section 27, the Advisory Committee, noting the many uncertainties which underlie the assumptions on which the revised estimates are based, questions the usefulness of a detailed review at this stage. In the Committee's opinion, the General Assembly should provisionally approve the Secretary-General's estimate of $51,630,000, on the understanding that further revised estimates for section 27 will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Those estimates would be based on the actual programme of work to be approved by the Commission.

6. With regard to the review of the programme of work, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Commission will carefully review the programmatic aspects and give particular attention to the designation of priorities.

7. The Advisory Committee also recommends that, in the meantime, the Secretary-General carefully review the staffing situation at Baghdad; in the Committee's opinion, staff resources should relate to the level of current activities carried out by the Commission at its various locations.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.3

Fourth report

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok

[Original: English]

[19 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the status of the two construction projects at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa and at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok (A/C.5/46/22). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information from representatives of the Secretary-General.

I. EXPANSION OF THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT BANGKOK

2. In paragraphs 13 to 16 of his report (ibid.), the Secretary-General discusses the delays that have affected this project since construction commenced in May 1989. A revised timetable reflecting what is now foreseen as a one-year delay is provided in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report. As indicated therein, final testing, furnishing and commissioning of the building is expected to be completed during the period October-December 1992.

3. As recalled in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, the construction contract (which was signed for 955 million baht ($37,598,425 at the April 1989 exchange rate)) "is a fixed-price contract and no further allowance need be made for inflation during the course of construction". The Advisory Committee points out that this refers to the "main construction" element of the total project, as shown in the cost breakdown in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report and as originally explained in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, 1/ wherein it was indicated that "the contract price for the main construction includes full allowance for inflation. It also includes a contingent sum to cover variations in quantities and other changes".

4. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the clear implication of that statement was that the fixed price referred to the total contract price and thus included the contractor's responsibilities for changes in quantities as well as inflation. In other words, the price of the contract was protected from any changes, including those arising out of either inflation or variations in quantities required for the construction. Despite this, however, it has now been explained by representatives of the Secretary-General that, in fact, the United Nations was never protected against changes in quantities and that the amount included in the contract as a contingency provision to cover for such variations was deliberately set at a low level by

the United Nations ($795,300) in an effort to reduce the contract price (see para. 10 below).

5. The Advisory Committee expresses its concern at this development and strongly requests that full disclosure be made when a contract is negotiated, both as to the terms of the contract and their implications, and as to the full costs, including potential costs, which are envisaged.

6. As shown in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/22), in addition to the main construction cost which, as explained above, includes inflation, the total project estimate also contains provisions (which are not protected from inflation) for "other furnishings, equipment and miscellaneous costs", and "consultants and construction supervision". The estimate also includes a provision of $839,275 for contingency and administrative costs which is distinct from the contingency provision reflected in the contract price for the main construction, referred to in paragraph 3 above.

7. In paragraph 21 of his report, the Secretary-General states that while "it had previously been expected that the original estimate of $44,177,700 approved in 1984 during the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly for the construction project at Bangkok would be sufficient to cover the cost of the project ... it is now estimated that the final cost of the project will be $48,540,000", i.e. an increase of $4,362,300. The additional cost is due to both the additional work described in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report and "other factors" outlined in paragraph 21. The Advisory Committee was informed that the amount of $4,362,300 is a net amount, which takes into account the use of the contingent provision in the main construction contract and the provision for contingency and administrative costs. As indicated in paragraph 23 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes to finance this additional cost by applying up to $4,362,300 of the interest income earned in respect of the appropriations for the Bangkok project, thereby obviating the need for appropriations in excess of $44,177,700.

8. At its request, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following breakdown of the additional costs (rounded) as they relate to the descriptions in paragraphs 20 and 21 and the breakdown in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report:

		US dollars
Paragraph 20 (a): (main construction)	Access, security and fire safety requirements	650 000
Paragraph 20 (b): (main construction)	Remeasurement of actual quantities	1 105 000
Paragraph 20 (c): (main construction ($460,000) and alterations to existing building ($600,000))	Other remeasurements and design changes/alterations to building	1 060 000

	US dollars
Paragraphs 21 (a) and (b): Site supervision, administrative and consultant costs .... (consultants, construction supervision, and administrative costs)	535 000
Paragraph 21 (c): New telephone equipment (net additional cost) .... (other furnishings, equipment costs)	1 010 000
Total net increase	4 360 000

9. As stated in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report, "any additional work required not covered by the original contract is calculated at the same unit prices in the original contract". The Advisory Committee notes that the additional work relates in part to changes in the provisions relating to the access, security and fire safety requirements for the new building (para. 20 (a) of the Secretary-General's report). As discussed in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's report, final reviews relating to these matters have been undertaken, and it was recalled that "the designs and specifications for the tender documents for the project were completed in 1986". The Committee was informed that not all the details relating to these matters were included in the original tenders since it was necessary to issue the tenders without further delay in view of the escalating construction costs at Bangkok.

10. The additional work described in paragraphs 20 (b) and (c) relates to quantities of material and work greater than what is provided for in the construction contract. With regard to paragraph 20 (b), the Committee was informed that the bills of quantities, prepared by the United Nations quantity surveyor, were included in the tender documents, and formed the basis for the contractor's quotation. However, certain mechanical, structural and electrical drawings and specifications were completed after the invitation to tender (see para. 9 above) which affected the quantities and work involved. Quantities in excess of those foreseen in the bills of quantities therefore represent additional work for which the United Nations is liable. Although, as mentioned above, a contingency was included in the main construction contract to cover "variations in quantities and other changes", the Advisory Committee was informed that this contingency, which was originally set at a low level in an effort to lower costs (see para. 4 above) has, in fact, not proved sufficient. Similarly, the amounts provided for "demolition, relocation and alteration to existing building" (see the breakdown of costs in para. 22 of the Secretary-General's report), proved insufficient once final engineering had been completed; hence the additional costs related to paragraph 20 (c) of the report.

11. As indicated in paragraphs 21 (a) and (b) of the Secretary-General's report, other factors contributing to the cost increase relate to site supervision. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that "it has been necessary to provide a much larger site supervision team than originally contemplated"; furthermore, in view of the projected delay in completion by

approximately one year, the administrative costs and the costs for consultants and site supervision will be substantially greater.

12. As mentioned above, the provisions for consultants and construction supervision, as well as administrative costs are separate components of the total estimate, and the related costs are not protected by the fixed-price contract. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 19 of his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, 1/ the Secretary-General noted that the boom in the construction sector at Bangkok had led to a serious shortage in field supervision staff, resulting in sharp increases in the salaries that had to be paid to obtain such personnel. However, at that time, it was felt that the provision for contingency was sufficient to cover the resulting increases.

13. In addition to the higher salaries for the site supervision staff, the employment of a larger site supervision team than foreseen for a longer time further increased the costs. The Advisory Committee understands that the increase in the size of the site supervision team relates both to the need to provide more supervision in view of inadequate direction of workers and subcontractors by the contractor and to the need to speed inspection and checking (see A/C.5/46/22, para. 15). The Committee was also informed that the United Nations had underestimated the size of the site supervision team that would be needed.

14. As indicated in paragraph 21 (c) of the Secretary-General's report, the projected cost of the new telephone system has also "increased substantially, owing primarily to a change in specification for the related cabling". In this connection, the Committee was informed that the original project budget included funds for a new PABX (Private Automatic Branch Exchange) telephone system to replace the obsolete system installed in 1975. The existing cabling and most of the instruments already available at ESCAP were to be retained. However, it subsequently became apparent that those cables and instruments would not permit ESCAP to make full use of the features of the new PABX system nor could they provide the necessary data communications features for efficient operation. Studies were then made of a digital telephone system, compatible with those in New York and Geneva and it is now proposed to install a digital telephone system. The Committee was further informed that since the Secretary-General submitted his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, 2/ in which it was stated that studies had been made of the new digital telephone system, the consultant's study on the necessary cabling for the digital system has been completed; the study indicates that a complete recabling of ESCAP headquarters is required to support the communications requirements of the Commission. Furthermore, it would be more economical to undertake this work in conjunction with the installation of the telephone system.

15. The Advisory Committee has a number of concerns regarding the additional costs which are submitted in the Secretary-General's report and described above. Notwithstanding that the final engineering and structural, mechanical and electrical drawings were completed after the invitation to tender, and that this has translated into a situation where additional quantities and work are required over and above the allowances contained in the contract, the Committee is concerned that this fact had not been previously reported to the General Assembly with a warning that this might entail costs additional to the

overall estimate (see para. 4 above). Similarly, although previous reports of the Secretary-General have referred to final reviews of finished materials, furnishings and equipment, as well as studies of the new digital telephone system, no mention of additional costs, or of potential additional costs, has been made, even in so far as to alert the Assembly that, for example, in the case of the telephone system, the studies were incomplete.

16. Instead of being previously alerted to potential cost increases, the General Assembly is, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, now faced with an almost fait accompli situation, particularly with regard to the additional work outlined in paragraphs 20 (b) and (c) of the Secretary-General's report, as well as the various changes made in the provisions for security and fire safety requirements described in paragraph 20 (a). The Committee also finds it difficult to comment on the new telephone system in that it had not previously been provided with information regarding the total estimated cost and the increase which would result from the installation of the new cabling.

17. With regard to the increased costs related to site supervision and administrative and consultant work (see A/C.5/46/22, paras. 21 (a) and (b)), the Advisory Committee questions why these should be borne in their entirety by the United Nations, particularly that portion related to the projected delay in completion. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that "the construction contract provides that damages would be levied against the contractor for failure to complete on time" (ibid., para. 19). It would therefore seem that such damages ought to include the additional costs related to extending the site supervision team for one year (see para. 2 above).

18. On the other hand, the Advisory Committee also notes that, as stated in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, "on 26 September the contractor submitted a counter-claim greatly in excess of those damages, claiming compensation for additional costs incurred as a result of delays that were beyond his control". As also stated in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, it appears that this claim is without merit, "but a more detailed review will be undertaken". At the same time, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that in the case when the delay is attributable solely to the contractor, the additional costs of the site supervision team due to the delay would be borne by the contractor through the operation of the damages clause specified in the contract.

19. While recognizing the complexities of the matter, including the fact that the prevailing situation at Bangkok may have hampered the contractor, the Advisory Committee is nevertheless of the view that the United Nations should maintain a firm position in this matter, especially with regard to the increased administrative and site supervision costs it will incur as a result of the delay in project completion. The Committee does not agree that all costs should be absorbed by the United Nations.

20. In response to inquiries concerning whether funds had been committed/obligated in respect of the additional "projected" costs outlined in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee was informed that commitments were entered into for the increased costs totalling $1,105,000 resulting from the remeasurement of actual quantities upon completion of piling, foundations and basements (see A/C.5/46/22, para. 20 (b), and para. 8 above). The Committee was further informed that

this was done because it had originally been expected that this amount could be met from the contingency provision of $795,300 included in the main construction contract together with the provision of $839,275 for administration and contingency in the total project costs.

21. Bearing in mind its comments above, the Advisory Committee does not, at this stage, concur with the use of the interest income to provide for the $535,000 of additional administrative, consultant and site supervision costs referred to in paragraphs 21 (a) and (b) of the Secretary-General's report. Rather, it requests that it be kept apprised of developments regarding the settlement of the claim submitted by the contractor and of the United Nations own claim for damages under the terms of the contract. The Committee therefore recommends that it be authorized by the General Assembly to decide, at the appropriate time, and on the basis of additional information, whether interest income can be used to finance some or all of the additional cost of $535,000 related to these items.

22. In the circumstances however, the Advisory Committee will not object to the use of interest income up to $3,825,000 to finance the additional work referred to in paragraphs 20 (a) to (c) and 21 (c) of the Secretary-General's report (see paras. 9, 10 and 14 above). In view of its comments above, the Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will keep the General Assembly better informed and in a more timely fashion regarding the details of potential additional costs in other construction projects.

II. EXPANSION OF THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AT ADDIS ABABA

23. As stated in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report, the construction contract for the project at Addis Ababa, which was signed on 22 February 1991, "called for construction to be completed within 36 months from the official commencement of the construction period, i.e. on 29 April 1994. It also provided for an extension of the 36-month construction period equal to any force majeure period, plus whatever additional period might be required for normal operations to resume under the specific circumstances".

24. On 27 May 1991, the contractor, under the terms of the contract requested recognition of a force majeure situation, which, as stated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report, was in effect until 12 July, on which date the contractor was informed that "full performance under the contract should resume". In fact, as discussed in paragraphs 8 and 9, this has not happened; the Advisory Committee notes in particular that the supply of materials to the project has been hampered.

25. In response to its inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in certain aspects the work is two to four months behind schedule; however, with good management, the contractor may be able to recoup a portion of the delay. The Committee was also informed that the United Nations is engaged in active discussions with the contractor in an effort to expedite work; however, as mentioned, the question of supplies remains a problem. In the circumstances, as stated in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report, "it is considered premature to project a definitive timetable for completion at this time"; the

Secretary-General will submit a more detailed revision to the timetable to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, "when the situation has been clarified and information becomes available on the restoration of normal conditions for transportation of materials for the project".

26. The Advisory Committee recognizes the difficult nature of the situation; taking these circumstances into account, it urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to expedite work on the project. In this connection, it reiterates its position that "further delay is likely to result in a further escalation of the final total cost of the project". 3/

27. As stated in paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General considers it premature, at this stage, "to propose a revision to the project budget and schedule of appropriations, since both are dependent upon the timetable". He adds that "there is no firm basis at this time to anticipate that the net result of the various factors affecting the total project cost would cause a major increase over the 1990 estimate of $107,576,900". For the time being, he proposes to retain the estimated total project cost of $107,576,900, including the estimated resources of $57,414,900 requested under section 35 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. However, "it cannot be ruled out that the total project cost will be affected" by a number of factors which are enumerated in paragraphs 11 (a) to (e) of the report.

28. The Advisory Committee notes that some of those factors may partially offset the total estimated cost, e.g. the alternative piling design mentioned in paragraph 11 (d) of the Secretary-General's report. Others, however, such as the use of a larger site supervision team for a longer period and the force majeure situation will give rise to greater costs. With regard to those factors which may result in increased expenditures, the Committee requests that it be informed of such costs as they arise and before financial commitments are made that would affect the total approved project cost.

29. The Committee also requests that it be provided with a progress report on the project at its spring 1992 session. In addition to including general information concerning the project's timetable and the status of work, the report should include information on any events affecting the overall estimate as well as more detailed information on the request for the new digital telephone system mentioned in paragraph 7 (f) of the Secretary-General's report, with a preliminary cost estimate if possible.

Notes

1/ A/C.5/44/7.

2/ A/C.5/45/53.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.2, para. 6.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.4

Fifth report

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1991

[Original: English]

[27 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/34) on the revised estimates resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1991. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The total estimated requirements arising out of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council are summarized in paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General and reproduced below:

	1991	1992-1993	1994-1995	Total
		(US dollars)		
Conference-servicing costs	1 634 000	3 771 400	134 800	5 540 200
Other costs	2 133 300	3 696 800	1 193 300	7 023 400
Total	3 767 300	7 468 200	1 328 100	12 563 600

3. As indicated in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, requirements for 1991, both conference-servicing and other costs, are covered by provisions in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. For the reason provided in paragraph 4, it is also estimated "that no additional resources (for conference-servicing) would be required under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the resolutions and decisions by the Economic and Social Council".

4. As shown above, non-conference-servicing (other) requirements for the biennium 1992-1993 total $3,696,800; of that amount $3,068,200 has already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, leaving a balance of $628,600. As shown in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, $558,400 relates to preparatory activities for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and would be provided from extrabudgetary resources (see also A/C.5/46/25 and Corr.1). The remaining $70,200 would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

5. The amount of $70,200 requested under section 22 (International drug control) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 relates to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1991/39 and 1991/49 of 21 June 1991, by which the Council decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should meet annually for a period not exceeding eight working days and that its membership should be increased from 40 to 53. Since the proposed programme budget already contains provision for the travel of representatives of the Commission's 40 members to attend both a special session scheduled for 1992 and the regular session of 1993, the amount of $70,200 relates in its entirety to the travel costs for 13 additional members to attend the above two sessions of the Commission.

6. In paragraph 11 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes that in the event that the $70,200 could not be met from the contingency fund, some activities under subprogramme 4, Demand reduction, coordination and information, "would be identified on a selective basis for deferral to the biennium 1994-1995". In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the proposal does not provide the "precise indication of how the alternatives ... would be applied" as called for in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. While it represents an attempt to comply with the guidelines mandated by the Assembly, the proposal falls short in that it does not specify which activity (activities) would be postponed and the resources that would be released through such action.

7. Subject to the above, the Advisory Committee recommends that, at this stage, the Fifth Committee take note of the above estimate of $70,200 on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/211, annex, section C, paragraphs 5 and 6 (see A/C.5/46/81 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee notes that the requirements for the biennium 1994-1995 will be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.5

Sixth report

Conference servicing of intergovernmental bodies convened at Nairobi

[Original: English]

[27 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/29) concerning the conference servicing of intergovernmental bodies convened at Nairobi. During its consideration of the note, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The note was submitted pursuant to the request by the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the Secretary-General report on the overall issue of conference servicing relating to United Nations intergovernmental bodies convened at Nairobi; within that context, the Committee for Programme and Coordination also specifically recommended that the General Assembly consider the practice of including under section 17 (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) of the programme budget the conference-servicing costs relating to the intergovernmental bodies of UNEP.

3. As stated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's note, "the intergovernmental bodies convened at Nairobi are: the Governing Council of UNEP and its Committee of Permanent Representatives; and the Commission on Human Settlements and its Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)". The estimated costs of the biennial sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Commission on Human Settlements, both of which receive conference services in all six official languages, are included under various objects of expenditure in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 under sections 17 (United Nations Environment Programme) and 19 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) respectively. For the reason given in paragraph 8 of the note by the Secretary-General, pre-session documentation in Chinese has not been provided for in relation to the sessions of the Commission; however, it has now been requested.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 11 that there are no specific provisions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for meetings of the informal Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which meets at least four times a year with the Executive Director. Rather, "relevant costs are met within the overall provision for the Commission sessions in the programme budget of the Centre".

5. As decided by the Governing Council of UNEP, its Committee of Permanent Representatives also meets at least four times a year with the Executive Director of UNEP. As stated in paragraph 7 of the note by the Secretary-General,

> "In its decision 15/12 of 25 May 1989, the Governing Council ... decided to recognize the requirements for full language services for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to provide them as soon as funding for the costs of these services can be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations. However, no specific provisions were made in the programme budget for conference-servicing of the Committee."

6. The costs referred to in the decision of the Governing Council are quantified in paragraph 26 of the note by the Secretary-General; as stated therein, "based ... on the assumption that the Committee will meet four times a year for a one-day session with conference services provided in all six languages, the estimated cost (at 1991 rates) would be $614,400 for the biennium, on the basis of a cost of $76,800 per one-day session". That amount includes the average cost (salaries, travel, subsistence, etc.) of interpreter teams to be recruited from Europe.

7. In paragraph 25 of his note the Secretary-General states that "a review of existing arrangements for servicing of similar bodies at Habitat, ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], ECE [Economic Commission for Europe] and ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia] indicates that the related costs are being accommodated from within the overall provisions made in the budgets of those organizational units for conference servicing of their respective intergovernmental bodies". At the same time, bearing in mind that roughly 25 per cent of the permanent conference-servicing establishment of UNEP is charged against the regular budget of the United Nations (the balance being financed from voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund), the Secretary-General proposes that approximately 25 per cent of the above-mentioned estimate of $614,400, that is, $150,000, be included under section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (para. 27). The Secretary-General also states that "the General Assembly might wish to request the Governing Council of UNEP to authorize the financing of the balance ... from the Environment Fund" (ibid.).

8. As stated in paragraph 28 of the note by the Secretary-General, it is also proposed that the additional requirements related to pre-session documentation in Chinese for the Commission on Human Settlements, estimated at $73,000 for the biennium 1992-1993, be included under section 19 of the proposed programme budget.

9. The Secretary-General concludes by stating that, should the Fifth Committee decide to endorse his recommendations, "a statement of programme budget implications would be submitted".

10. With regard to the overall issue of conference servicing relating to those intergovernmental bodies convened at Nairobi, the Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's view that "the current conference-servicing arrangements at Nairobi provide for a sufficient degree of flexibility for both UNEP and Habitat in the planning and servicing of meetings of their intergovernmental bodies" (para. 24). As indicated in the same paragraph, the Secretary-General will keep the situation under review; relevant proposals will be submitted to the General Assembly for different arrangements, if circumstances warrant such a change. The Committee concurs in such an approach and asked that it be kept apprised of any developments in this area.

11. With regard to the proposal to finance meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP, the Advisory Committee regrets that no statement of programme budget implications was submitted to the Governing Council prior to the adoption of its decision 15/12. The Advisory Committee also points out that the costs for servicing similar bodies at Habitat, ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA are met from within "the overall provisions made in the budgets of those organizational units for conference servicing of their respective intergovernmental bodies" (para. 25); the amounts for such meetings are not separately indicated, that is, no specific provision is made for them.

12. The Advisory Committee does not object, in principle, to the financing of 25 per cent (i.e. $150,000) of the requirements of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP under section 17. However, the Advisory Committee recommends that any additional appropriation be reported under section 17 in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

13. The Advisory Committee also has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal that the requirements for pre-session documentation in Chinese for the Commission on Human Settlements ($73,000) be included under section 19. However, as recommended above, any additional appropriation should be reported under section 19 in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Committee further recommends that in future the cost of this service, as well as that referred to in paragraph 12 above, be included in the total conference requirements budgeted under sections 17 and 19 of the programme budget.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.6

Seventh report

Administrative and financial arrangements for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

[Original: English]

[27 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial arrangements for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 (A/C.5/46/25 and Corr.1). During its consideration of this question, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

2. The note by the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations regarding the funding of the preparatory arrangements for the Conference, as contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 1/

3. As stated in paragraph 3 of the note by the Secretary-General, the "overall requirements for the preparation and holding of the Conference have been estimated ... at $5,651,000 (at revised 1991 rates)", comprising $3,000,700 in non-conference-servicing costs and $2,650,300 for conference servicing. A breakdown of that amount is provided in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General; as shown therein, the 1992-1993 portion for non-conference-servicing would be financed from the regular budget ($1,432,300) and from extrabudgetary funds ($558,400).

4. In paragraph 7 of the note by the Secretary-General it is stated that "the Secretary-General has established the Trust Fund for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which would be a primary source of financing of the preparatory activities from extrabudgetary resources". Thus far, as stated in paragraph 8, a contribution of $250,000 has been received, while another $500,000 has been pledged. In addition, the Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries Participating in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development has been established.

5. Since the above-mentioned Trust Fund is to be the primary source of financing that portion of preparatory activities to be funded through extrabudgetary resources, the Advisory Committee sought additional information regarding the statement in paragraph 10 of the note by the Secretary-General that the costs relating to meetings of regional commissions, "including expert group meetings, preparation of working documents and assistance to participants from developing countries ... will be covered by UNFPA funds", and not from the two funds mentioned above. In particular, the Committee inquired as to why the costs of these activities had not been included in the overall estimate of requirements contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that the activities referred to in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's note related only to regional conferences, the arrangements for which had yet to be finalized. The related conference-servicing costs would be charged to the United Nations but no other requests under the regular budget of the United Nations would be made. The non-conference-servicing costs would be borne by UNFPA project budgets.

7. Notwithstanding this explanation, the Advisory Committee remains of the view that at the very least, based on past experience, indicative figures should have been provided *vis-à-vis* the activities referred to in paragraph 10 of the note by the Secretary-General, in order to provide the General Assembly with a more comprehensive estimate of the cost of the preparatory activities and of the Conference. In the Committee's opinion, the above-quoted figure of $5.6 million, given as the total of overall requirements for the preparation and holding of the Conference, is incomplete (see also para. 12 below). Moreover, the Committee questions the use of project funds by UNFPA for the funding of the regional activities described in paragraph 10 of the note by the Secretary-General. In the opinion of the Committee, these activities cannot be treated as projects and the funding for the meetings should come from UNFPA's administrative and programme support services budget.

8. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the note by the Secretary-General, the regular budget portion of $1,432,300 (at revised 1991 rates) for the biennium 1992-1993 includes $638,700 for six expert group meetings, as authorized by Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991. The related conference-servicing requirements for the expert group meetings amount to $800,400, to be covered from within the resources requested under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Advisory Committee was informed that the meetings had been costed at New York rates; however, the contribution of $250,000 referred to above had been made available to help defray the additional cost resulting from the change of the venue of one of the expert meetings to a developing country.

9. As shown in paragraph 5 of the note by the Secretary-General, the regular budget provision of $1,432,300 (at revised 1991 rates) also includes $472,300 for general temporary assistance equivalent to 24 work-months each of one D-1 post, one P-3 post and two General Service (other level) posts. In addition, as noted in the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, 2/ approximately 100 Professional and 50 General Service work-months of the Population Division "would be geared towards the requirements for the deliberations of the Conference".

10. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 11 of the note by the Secretary-General that the Administrative Committee on Coordination has established an ad hoc task force to "coordinate inputs from various agencies and organizations to the preparation of the Conference". In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, given the multiplicity of other organizations in the system that will have a role in the preparation of the Conference, it is possible that not all the resources requested under the regular budget will be required.

11. Notwithstanding the above, the Advisory Committee recommends reinstatement of the amount of $1,432,300 (at revised 1991 rates) under section 13 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. At the same time, it requests that it be provided with a report at its session in autumn 1992, indicating, inter alia, the extent to which additional funding has been provided, the inputs from other agencies and organizations and the savings that have been realized, thereby enabling it to review requirements for 1993.

12. The Advisory Committee notes that the figures provided for 1994 are indicative only and are based on New York costing. The actual requirements, which will be submitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, will depend, in part, on the decision to be taken by the Preparatory Committee regarding the venue of the Conference. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the decision on the convening of the Conference should be taken early enough so that it can take into account section I, paragraph 10 (h), of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, which stipulates that "no more than one special conference of the United Nations shall be convened at the same time". The Committee also notes that the overall estimates with regard to certain items may also have to be adjusted; furthermore, the extent to which the adjusted requirements are funded from the regular budget will depend, inter alia, on the level of other funding that has been received.

13. As shown in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General, the estimate of 1994 requirements provides $50,400 for the travel of Population Commission members to the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in 1994. The Advisory Committee points out that, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, the Economic and Social Council decided "to designate the Population Commission ... as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population, and for that purpose [decided] that rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and rule 1 (d) of the rules governing payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances ... shall be waived". The Committee also points out that the Population Commission will meet in 1993 and 1995; thus its meeting in 1994 will only be as the Preparatory Committee. Since in the above-mentioned resolution, the Economic and Social Council waived the payment of travel and subsistence allowances to members of preparatory committees, the Committee is of the opinion that the provision for travel of Population Commission members should not be required.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 13.4.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.3.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.7*

Eighth report

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission

[Original: English]

[29 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/33) on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations and decisions contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). 1/ During its review of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. As indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 1 of his statement, the decisions and recommendations of the Commission that would entail financial implications for the biennium 1990-1991 and the biennium 1992-1993 relate to the following issues:

(a) Comprehensive review of pensionable remuneration for the General Service and related categories of staff;

(b) Remuneration of the Professional and higher categories of staff: base/floor salary scale;

(c) Comprehensive review of conditions of service of assistant secretaries-general and under-secretaries-general;

(d) Remuneration of the General Service and related categories of staff.

3. As can be seen from the table following paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement, the financial implications for the United Nations regular budget, as a result of implementation of the decisions and recommendations of ICSC, are estimated at $1,225,800 for 1992 and $1,605,010 for 1993. In addition, as indicated in the footnotes to that table, net financial implications of $4,166,650 are estimated for 1991; this relates to remuneration of the General Service and related categories of staff.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that, with regard to the comprehensive review of pensionable remuneration for the General Service and related categories, no financial implications have been presented by the Commission in relation to its recommendation for a revised staff assessment scale.

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* Incorporating document A/46/7/Add.7/Corr.1 of 2 December 1991.

5. Paragraphs 5 to 7 of the Secretary-General's statement deal with the financial implications resulting from the establishment of a base/floor salary scale, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989. As noted in paragraph 5, that scale was part of an integrated package in which negative classes of post adjustment were eliminated; it is used also to calculate payments under the new mobility and hardship scheme, as well as separation payments.

6. Because of salary increases in the comparator civil service, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's statement that the Commission has recommended an increase of 8.6 per cent, effective 1 March 1992, in the current base/floor salary scale through the consolidation of classes of post adjustment. The costs to the United Nations regular budget would amount to $1,088,160 for 1992 and $1,305,780 for 1993; as shown in paragraph 18 of the statement, most of that amount relates to anticipated payments under the mobility/hardship matrix.

7. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 45/241 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly reiterated "its request to the International Civil Service Commission to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the operation of the mobility and hardship allowance and, in particular, on the evolution of the mobility and hardship allowance in reference to equivalent allowances granted by the comparator and in relation to the base/floor salary itself". The Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that ICSC would be making a study in 1992 of the mobility and hardship allowance and its comparability to equivalent allowances granted by the comparator.

8. As stated in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's statement, the implementation of the recommendation mentioned in paragraph 6 above would also necessitate an increase of $6,391,000 for 1992 under section 36 (Staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The comparable figure for 1993 would be $7,669,000.

9. The Advisory Committee sought clarification as to why an increase in costs of $1,088,160 in 1992 resulted in an increase of $6,391,000 in staff assessment in 1992, that is, the increase in staff assessment appears disproportionately high. The Committee was informed that, as shown in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement, the increase of $1,088,160 in 1992 related only to those staff affected by negative post adjustment, the mobility/hardship matrix and the separation scale. On the other hand, the amount of $6,391,000 in staff assessment in 1992 has been calculated in relation to the base salary changes in respect of all staff in the Professional and higher categories. In other words, the consolidation of classes of post adjustment (8.6 per cent) into the base salary with a corresponding decrease in the amount of post adjustment paid affects all staff in the Professional and higher categories.

10. The comprehensive review of conditions of service of assistant secretaries-general and under-secretaries-general is discussed in paragraphs 8 to 15 of the Secretary-General's statement; the Commission's recommendations in this regard relate to three items: revised housing arrangements, representation allowances and net remuneration. No financial implications for

these were given by ICSC; as stated in paragraph 15 of the statement, the United Nations has estimated the costs to the regular budget in respect of revised housing arrangements and representation allowances. With regard to the latter, the Advisory Committee notes that, as stated in its report (document A/46/7/Add.8 below), the Secretary-General intends to conduct a more comprehensive review of representation allowances, honorariums, and related matters and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session; consequently, financial implications for the biennium 1992-1993 for representation allowances would not arise at this stage.

11. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's statement that the Commission has reiterated its recommendation made in 1990 concerning revised housing arrangements for staff at the assistant secretary-general and under-secretary-general and equivalent levels; should the General Assembly approve that recommendation, the cost to the United Nations regular budget has been estimated at $317,000 in 1992 and $383,000 in 1993, as shown in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's statement.

12. As stated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement, ICSC has recommended an increase in net remuneration for staff at the assistant secretary-general and under-secretary-general levels in a range of 7 to 11 per cent. Although the Commission further recommended that the specific amount of the increase should be determined by the General Assembly in the light of such recommendations as the Secretary-General might wish to make, the Advisory Committee notes that no specific proposal has been submitted by the Secretary-General.

13. In this connection, the Advisory Committee believes that among the considerations to be taken into account when deciding this issue is the relative ratio of average net remuneration of United Nations officials in New York and United States officials in Washington by equivalent grades, as shown in annex II to the report of ICSC. 1/ The ratios range from 1.68 for P-1 officials to 117.5 for D-2 officials; as shown in the table in paragraph 10 of the statement by the Secretary-General, the corresponding ratios for officials at the under-secretary-general and assistant secretary-general levels are 1.12 and 1.09 respectively.

14. The Advisory Committee also points out that staff in the Professional category and above in New York are due to receive a 3.9 per cent increase in net remuneration as a result of a change in post adjustment multipliers as at 1 November 1991; the General Assembly may wish to take this factor into account when considering the recommendation of ICSC referred to in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement.

15. As discussed in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Secretary-General's statement, the financial implications of implementing the Commission's recommendations resulting from its survey of the best prevailing conditions of service of staff in the General Service and related categories at Geneva are estimated at $4.3 million for the United Nations regular budget in 1991; implementation of the Commission's recommendations resulting from its survey of the best prevailing conditions of service at Vienna has resulted in savings in 1991 of $169,350, with additional savings projected for the biennium 1992-1993.

16. It is indicated in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's statement that, as in the past, "it is intended to deal with the impact of the recommendations of ICSC ... in the first programme budget performance report for the biennium 1992-1993". The Advisory Committee notes that this statement refers to the increases related to the biennium 1992-1993; the net implications of $4,166,650 (see para. 3 above) for 1991 will be dealt with in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1).

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/46/30), vol. I.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.8

Ninth report

Honorariums payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations - Representation allowances for under-secretaries-general and assistant secretaries-general

[Original: English]

[27 November 1991]

1. In documents A/C.5/46/12 and A/C.5/46/32 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General has submitted reports concerning honorariums payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and representation allowances for under-secretaries-general and assistant secretaries-general, respectively.

2. Notwithstanding these reports, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has been informed of the Secretary-General's intention to conduct a more comprehensive review of these matters, as well as the issues raised in paragraphs 67 and 85 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, 1/ and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In this connection, the Committee had an exchange of views with representatives of the Secretary-General concerning some of the aspects to be covered by the report.

3. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee will not comment on the proposals contained in the current reports of the Secretary-General and it recommends that the General Assembly defer these matters until its forty-seventh session.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/46/7).

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.9

Tenth report

Administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

[Original: English]

[27 November 1991]

1. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990, on the enhancement of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-sixth session, a report on measures taken to implement that resolution. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/480) submitted in response to the request of the Assembly. The Advisory Committee has also considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/23) containing the proposed administrative and financial arrangements for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

2. During the course of its consideration of the reports mentioned above, the Advisory Committee met with the Executive Director of the Programme, as well as with other representatives of the Secretary-General.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 45/179, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to create a single drug control programme" and "to integrate fully therein the structures and functions" of the existing programmes and entities within the system "with the objective of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control". The Committee notes that, pursuant to the request of the Assembly, the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control were integrated to form the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

4. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 45/179, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its thirty-fourth regular session, to consider ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body and to submit its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1991. The Council in its resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991 called upon the Commission to give policy guidance to the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, and to monitor its activities. From this the Secretary-General has inferred that the Commission would be empowered to provide legislative overview and guidance to all of the Programme's activities (see A/46/480, para. 10, and A/C.5/46/23, para. 2). Nevertheless, it is still not clear whether the Commission is empowered to approve the operational programme and the administrative budget of the Programme and ensure their implementation. Should the General Assembly decide so, the Advisory Committee would, as a consequence, report on the Fund of the Programme to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

5. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 45/179, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to structure the Programme along the following lines: (a) treaty implementation (b) policy implementation and research and (c) operational activities. The integrated organizational structure is outlined in paragraphs 15 to 24 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/480) and the Advisory Committee received additional information together with an organizational chart. In addition to the Office of the Executive Director, it is intended to establish the following divisions, offices and units:

(a) Treaty Implementation and Legal Division;

(b) Division for Operational Activities;

(c) Technical Services Division;

(d) Inter-organization Cooperation Division;

(e) Policy Planning and Evaluation Office;

(f) Information Resources Management Service;

(g) Service for External Relations and Public Information;

(h) Programme Support Service;

(i) Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board.

6. The structure would be further subdivided into additional offices and units as follows:

(a) Personnel;

(b) Budget, Finance and General Services;

(c) Information Management Unit;

(d) Information Systems Office;

(e) External Relations and Non-Governmental Organization Unit;

(f) Public Information Unit.

These units and offices are further divided into about 15 sub-units and as many field offices.

7. Taking into account the size of the Programme, the Advisory Committee believes that the organizational structure proposed in the report is too unrealistic. Believing as it does that the emphasis of resource utilization should be on substantive rather than on administrative activities, the Committee recommends that the proposed administrative structure be reviewed and rationalized by the Secretary-General by, inter alia, a merger of some units and offices, which would result in the release of additional resources for programmes. The combination of the proposed Information Management Unit

with the Information Systems Office and the External Relations and Non-Governmental Organization Unit with the Public Information Unit could be two cases in point.

8. The Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 4 of its resolution 45/179, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General "to appoint a senior official at the level of Under-Secretary-General, who will execute the integration process and head the new integrated Programme starting from 1 January 1991 with the exclusive responsibility for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities". Accordingly, the Secretary-General appointed an Executive Director who assumed office on 1 March 1991, and the Administrative Committee on Coordination decided to admit him to participate fully in its work (Administrative Committee on Coordination decision 1991/15 of 19 April 1991).

9. The Advisory Committee believes that although integration of the drug control structures has taken place as required by General Assembly resolution 45/179 and a senior official with the exclusive responsibility for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities has been appointed, the implications of the additional measures proposed by the Secretary-General in his report are not quite clear. For example, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 8 of his report (A/46/480) that through appropriate arrangements of delegation of authority, the Executive Director will have the latitude and control that are necessary over the personnel and financial resources of the Programme.

10. Since the issuance of that report, the Third Committee, at its 47th meeting of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, recommended the adoption by the Assembly of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/46/L.33. Paragraph 3 of the draft resolution emphasizes "the need for the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to have the necessary degree of managerial flexibility to discharge effectively and expeditiously the functions of the Programme under the terms of United Nations treaties and resolutions relating to international drug control, while recognizing that the Programme is now a part of the United Nations Secretariat".

11. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, whether the arrangements described in the reports of the Secretary-General are in fact necessary to achieve managerial flexibility is open to question and the General Assembly may wish to give further guidance in this regard. Under the circumstances, the Committee is unable to endorse or pronounce itself on the personnel arrangements outlined in document A/C.5/46/23, particularly in paragraphs 12 to 14 thereof. However, the Committee strongly believes that in the application of United Nations procedures for appointment and promotion, care should be taken to ensure that there is no overlap or fragmentation of these procedures.

12. In considering the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 18 of document A/C.5/46/23, namely, conversion of the Executive Director's post from a temporary post to an established one, the Advisory Committee recalls the comments it made in paragraph 10 of its twelfth report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 1/ that "strict observance of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 would require that the appointment of

such a senior official should be accommodated within the existing number of posts at that level". The Committee reiterates that position at this time, with particular reference to ensuring a rational staffing and administrative structure for the United Nations activities at Vienna (see also General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990).

13. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its consideration of the programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, it had not objected to the establishment of 20 additional posts for drug control activities. The Committee has now been informed that many of these posts have not been filled to date. In view of this, the Committee does not believe that the four additional extrabudgetary posts mentioned in paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/46/23 need be created at this time. In any case the Committee will, in the near future, revert to this issue in the context of its consideration of the administrative and programme support costs budget of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (see para. 4 above).

14. From paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/46/23 and the annex thereto, the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, intends to promulgate separate financial rules applicable to the Fund. In this connection, the Committee believes that care should be taken by the Secretary-General to ensure that the rules eventually promulgated by him are and will be kept consistent with the relevant General Assembly decisions, it being understood that where there is a conflict, the appropriate Assembly decision will apply. There will, therefore, be a need for the Secretary-General to review carefully the rules annexed to document A/C.5/46/23, in the light of such action as the Assembly may take at its current session. In addition, a number of suggestions were made in the Committee with regard to specific rules; these will be communicated to the Secretary-General.

15. While the General Assembly need not take formal action with regard to the financial rules for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as indicated in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/46/23, it is necessary for the Assembly to record its understanding with regard to the application of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations to the Programme, as indicated in paragraph 16 below.

16. In this connection, the Advisory Committee believes that the General Assembly would need to establish the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and to decide that it shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Rules of the Fund to be promulgated by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. The General Assembly should also decide that, notwithstanding regulations 11.1 and 11.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the Programme shall maintain the accounts of the Fund of the Programme and shall be responsible for submitting the accounts thereof, no later than 31 March following the end of the financial period, to the Board of Auditors, and for submitting financial reports to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (see para. 4 above) and to the General Assembly.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7* and addendum (A/45/7 and Add.1-14, and A/45/7/Add.15), document A/45/7/Add.11.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.10

Eleventh report

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.13

(Agenda item 29)*

[Original: English]

[29 November 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/38), submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.13, relating to the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

2. On the basis of the assumptions outlined in paragraphs 4 to 16 of the statement, the Secretary-General estimates that an additional appropriation of $6,873,400 would be required for 1992 under section 2 (Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, with an additional appropriation of $369,400 under section 36 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) was established and headed by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in the area, upon the cessation of the arrangements for the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). Subsequent to the relinquishment of his post by the Coordinator for the United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan, the Secretary-General decided to assign his Personal Representative to the vacant post of Coordinator under the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund and also to appoint an Alternate Personal Representative for OSGAP. While the Committee does not disagree, at this stage, with the proposal to continue a post at the assistant secretary-general level to accommodate the Alternate Personal Representative, the Committee intends to keep the matter under review.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that, in addition to the post at the assistant secretary-general level mentioned above, the requirements include the provision for continuation through 1992 of the 32 posts originally authorized for 1990 (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 1 P-4, 6 General Service (other level), 8 Field Service and 13 local level) and the 25 additional posts subsequently

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* The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

authorized, comprising 1 General Service (other level), 3 Field Service and 21 local level posts, which were added from 15 March 1990 with the concurrence of the Committee; there are also 10 military advisers.

5. As indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General, it is proposed to provide two additional posts in 1992 (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (other level)). Notwithstanding the reasons given in the statement of programme budget implications, and seeing that there are at present a total of seven General Service posts in addition to 34 local level posts, the Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need for the proposed additional General Service post.

6. With regard to the P-4 post of interpreter/translator, the Advisory Committee recalls that this proposal had also been made in the Secretary-General's previous statement of programme budget implications 1/ and that the Committee had questioned the need for the post at that time. However, in view of the additional information provided in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/46/38), as well as by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee believes there is justification for establishing the post at this time.

7. The Advisory Committee recalls that, at the time of the establishment of OSGAP, the Secretary-General had requested the host Governments to continue to bear the local operating cost of OSGAP, which is similar to their undertaking for UNGOMAP. During its consideration of the subject in May 1990, the Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the same support had not been provided for OSGAP as had been previously provided for UNGOMAP. However, the Committee is pleased to note that the Government of Afghanistan has continued to provide office premises at Kabul free of charge during 1991. The Committee trusts that this arrangement will continue in 1992 and that, pursuant to the Secretary-General's further negotiations with the host Governments, support in the form of local staff, including security staff, vehicles and premises for OSGAP will be forthcoming.

8. The Advisory Committee reiterates its belief that considerable savings could be realized in items of expenditure such as the rental of aircraft for which estimates exceed considerably the costs incurred in the biennium 1990-1991. Insurance coverage for the aircraft should also be considerably lower. The Committee believes that significant economies can also be achieved with regard to the consultancy services proposed in the statement. The Committee requested the effect, in budgetary terms, of the devaluation of the local currency referred to in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement. This information has not been provided; however, the Committee believes that further economies may well be possible as a result.

9. On the basis of the considerations mentioned above, the Advisory Committee recommends the reduction of the Secretary-General's estimate from $6,873,400 to $6.6 million for 1992. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.13, there will be a need to appropriate an additional amount of $6.6 million for 1992 under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, these

additional requirements should be provided without recourse to the contingency fund. In addition, there would be a need to appropriate an amount of $359,700 under section 36, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

Notes

1/ A/C.5/45/25 and Corr.1.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.11

Twelfth report

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee in the following documents: A/46/671 (draft resolution A), A/46/673 (draft resolution G), A/46/674 (draft resolution C) and A/46/678 (draft resolution)

(Agenda items 58, 60 (b), 61 (f) and 65)*

[Original: English]

[5 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered four statements of programme budget implications concerning disarmament matters submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/46/40, A/C.5/46/42, A/C.5/46/43 and A/C.5/46/44). During its consideration of these statements, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

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* Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa [item 58].

General and complete disarmament: international arms transfers [item 60 (b)].

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [item 61 (f)].

Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace [item 65].

2. The financial implications of the draft resolutions to which the Secretary-General's statements relate can be summarized as follows:

Secretary-General's statement	Draft resolution	Non-conference servicing	Conference servicing
		(US dollars)	
A/C.5/46/40	A/46/678, para. 8, draft resolution	10 300 a/	853 600 b/
A/C.5/46/42	A/46/671, para. 12, draft resolution A	55 300	-
A/C.5/46/43	A/46/674, para. 20, draft resolution C	600 000	-
A/C.5/46/44	A/46/673, para. 46, draft resolution G	318 500	326 200 b/
Total		984 100	1 179 800

a/ To be absorbed within the overall level of resources under section 3 (Political and Security Council affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

b/ To be covered by the provision for conference servicing in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that in view of the provision made in the proposed programme budget to cover not only meetings which had already been programmed but also those that would be subsequently authorized, no additional appropriation is requested under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget to cover the conference-servicing requirements, estimated at $1,179,800, related to the draft resolutions.

4. The financial implications of the four draft resolutions amount to $984,100 for non-conference-servicing activities; as indicated above, the Secretary-General estimates that only $10,300, related to the draft resolution submitted in document A/46/678, paragraph 8, could be absorbed within the provisions in the proposed programme budget. Furthermore, notwithstanding the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987 regarding the designation of alternatives, the Advisory Committee notes that in respect of draft resolution C submitted in document A/46/674, paragraph 20 ($600,000) and draft resolution G submitted in document A/46/673, paragraph 46 ($318,500) "no activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 5 [Disarmament] of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993" (see A/C.5/46/43, para. 10, and A/C.5/46/44, para. 17). With regard to draft resolution A contained in document A/46/671,

paragraph 12, for which the financial implications total $55,300, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 13 of document A/C.5/46/42, indicates several low priority activities from which resources could be redeployed.

5. The Advisory Committee regrets that the approved procedure has not been followed in all cases; in this connection, it reiterates its previous observation:

> "The Committee strongly stresses the need for the Secretariat, when preparing statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, not to abdicate its responsibility to provide, for consideration of intergovernmental bodies concerned, precise indications of alternatives in the event that total additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available within the contingency fund." 1/

6. The draft resolution submitted in document A/46/678 and discussed in document A/C.5/46/40 relates to the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean; as noted in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/46/40, the proposed programme budget includes provision "for substantive services for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and preparation for and substantive servicing of the Conference". Additional costs of $10,300 for the travel of representatives of national liberation movements would arise; however, as indicated above, these costs would be absorbed. In response to inquiries, the Advisory Committee was informed that the amount of $10,300 relates to the travel of representatives from the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

7. The financial implications of draft resolution A submitted in document A/46/671, amount, as shown in paragraph 2 above, to $55,300; as stated in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/46/42, this relates to the holding of a five-day meeting at Addis Ababa of the Group of Experts designated by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity. As shown in paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/46/42, the amount of $55,300 comprises $6,900 for temporary assistance for meetings and $48,400 in substantive costs. In paragraph 10, the Secretary-General states that "it is not anticipated that the cost of $55,300 ... could be absorbed from within the provisions under section 5 of the proposed programme budget".

8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/46/42 that interpreters and translators would be hired locally for this meeting. Notwithstanding that statement, the Committee believes that the related cost of $6,900 should be financed under section 32 of the proposed programme budget; the estimate of additional non-conference-servicing requirements attributable to draft resolution A submitted in document A/46/671 should therefore be revised to $48,400.

9. Draft resolution C submitted in document A/46/674 calls for the administrative expenses of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to be financed from the regular budget. A breakdown of the estimated requirements

of $600,000 is provided in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/43. The Advisory Committee notes that this is over and above the resources included in the proposed programme budget to cover the posts of the directors of the centres.

10. The Advisory Committee has serious reservations regarding the recommendation of the First Committee on the financing of the regional centres. The Advisory Committee recalls that in section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly reaffirmed that "the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters"; it also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee and expressed "its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters".

11. Moreover the Advisory Committee believes that a decision, such as that taken by the First Committee, should have been preceded by a comprehensive report containing a full description of the centres' programmes of work, the related costs, and adequate justification for the amount of administrative support that is being requested. The report would also have provided specific information, not only on the amount of voluntary contributions received but on the expenditures incurred by the centres. Such information, as well as a description of any administrative problems might have provided at least a partial rationale for such a decision. The Committee also points out that unless sufficient voluntary contributions are received to finance substantive activities it is doubtful whether mere financing of the administrative expenses from the regular budget would in and of itself ensure the financial viability of the centres.

12. In fact, the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/59 E of 4 December 1990 (A/46/365) makes no such case for the financing of the administrative expenses. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that although the report describes the activities of each centre no indication of the related costs is provided. In the sections entitled "Staffing and finance", the Secretary-General indicates the voluntary contributions which have been pledged or received for each centre since submission of his previous report; however, no data on the overall financial positions of the centres have been provided.

13. The Secretary-General also emphasizes that, "under the terms of the General Assembly resolutions establishing the three regional centres, the basis for their financing has been existing resources and voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations" (ibid., para. 19). Bearing this in mind, the Secretary-General, with reference to the regional centre in Africa, emphasizes the importance of continued voluntary contributions "if the Centre's programme of work is to be maintained and increased, and in view of the continuing financial crises facing the United Nations" (ibid., para. 20).

14. Furthermore, the Secretary-General states that "in accordance with the terms on which the regional Centre [in Latin America and the Caribbean] was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre's various work programmes" (ibid., para. 44), hence the need for voluntary contributions. Similarly, the Secretary-General makes an appeal

for voluntary contributions to the regional centre in Asia and the Pacific (ibid., para. 54). Thus, far from requesting a change in the financing of the centres, the Secretary-General, in explicit terms, indicated that this was not an option.

15. As stated above, the basis for the financing of the regional centres, as stipulated by the General Assembly was to be existing resources and voluntary contributions. Although in its resolution 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish the post of Director at each of the centres, to be funded from the regular budget, the Advisory Committee sees no reason to modify the underlying policy regarding the financing of the centres. The Committee also points out that, as shown in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/43, the amount of $600,000 requested would provide, inter alia, for the salaries and common staff costs of 22 local level posts, thereby increasing the regular budget staffing table of the Organization. In this connection, the Committee also recalls recommendation 62 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations 2/ which states that "a serious effort should be made by the Secretary-General to discourage the present practice of transferring extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget".

16. The question also arises whether, in the event that voluntary funding of the centres' substantive activities falls short of expectations, financing of those activities under the regular budget will, in future, be requested. Should that occur, the Advisory Committee is convinced that other requests of a similar nature would be forthcoming.

17. Without prejudice to its above observations, the Advisory Committee, recommends that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution C submitted in document A/46/674, the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee, bearing in mind their respective responsibilities, would advise the Assembly as to the actual level of administrative support which will "ensure the continued financial viability of the centres". To that end, the Advisory Committee also recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report to the Fifth Committee, providing, inter alia, a full disclosure of the financial position of each centre, with supporting documentation, the proposed programme of work, and a functional breakdown of all staff, whether administrative or operational. On the basis of this report, it would be the Advisory Committee's intention to submit recommendations as to the level of administrative resources to be funded from the regular budget, by means of either a subvention or otherwise. Pending receipt of that report, the Advisory Committee recommends no change in the existing arrangements for the financing of the centres.

18. As stated in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/44, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution G submitted in document A/46/673, "the Secretary-General would establish and maintain at the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms"; he would also establish a panel of governmental technical experts which would hold three sessions in New York in 1992. The related non-conference-servicing requirements amount to $318,500, comprising $258,500 for the travel and subsistence allowance for 18 governmental technical experts, $49,200 for consultants (both actual consultancy services and the

travel and subsistence of consultants to attend the sessions of the experts) and $10,800 for three work-months of temporary assistance.

19. In paragraph 14 of document A/C.5/46/44, the Secretary-General states that "no provision has been made under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for the holding of meetings of the panel ..." and "it is not anticipated that the cost of $318,500 ... could be absorbed from within the appropriations proposed under section 5". In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that in paragraph 5.22 of the proposed programme budget, under the heading of disarmament studies, the Secretary-General explains that a provision of $329,800 (at revised 1991 rates) has been included in the proposed programme budget and distributed among the objects of expenditure of general temporary assistance, ad hoc expert groups, consultants and travel of staff in anticipation of disarmament studies which may be authorized by the Assembly in the biennium 1992-1993. However, the Committee notes that no such studies have as yet been authorized for the biennium to be covered by this provision.

20. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee believes that the amount of $329,800 (at revised 1991 rates) can be appropriately used for this purpose; consequently no additional appropriation is needed. Furthermore, although the breakdown of the amount of $318,500 by object of expenditure does not dovetail exactly with the breakdown of the $329,800 in the proposed programme budget, the Committee, noting that the overall amount is sufficient, recommends that amounts be redeployed among the objects of expenditure as needed.

21. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, there is scope for economy, that is, the estimated amount of $318,500 is excessive, particularly the amount included for consultancy services. The Committee therefore expects that the activities will be administered judiciously with a view to achieving savings. In keeping with its previous observations in respect of disarmament studies, the Committee also believes that in future the structure for undertaking such activities should be reconsidered, particularly in respect of the number of experts, the number of sessions convened, and the amount of consultancy services.

22. The Advisory Committee points out that should requests for disarmament studies arise at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General can submit the related requirements at that time.

23. Bearing in mind its observations in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolutions no additional requirements would be necessary in respect of draft resolution G submitted in document A/46/673, paragraph 46, and the draft resolution submitted in document A/46/678, paragraph 8; however, additional provisions in the amount of $48,400 would be required in respect of draft resolution A submitted in document A/46/671, paragraph 12, under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Requirements in respect of draft resolution C submitted in document A/46/674, paragraph 20, are to be determined as indicated in paragraph 17 above.

24. The Advisory Committee notes that the additional requirements of $48,400 will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund. Accordingly, such additional appropriations as may be requested by the Secretary-General will be considered in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly at the end of its current session in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/211, annex, section C, paragraphs 5 and 6 (see A/C.5/46/81 and Corr.1).

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.1, para. 10 and ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 and addendum (A/45/7 and Add.1-14, and A/45/7/Add.15), document A/45/7/Add.8, para. 9.

2/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 50.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.12

Thirteenth report

Status of technological innovations in the United Nations; Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations; Integrated management information system project; Optical disk storage and retrieval system

[Original: English]

[6 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General relating to:

(a) Status of technological innovations in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/1 and Corr.1);

(b) Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/5);

(c) Integrated management information system project (A/C.5/46/24);

(d) Optical disk storage and retrieval system (A/C.5/46/26).

During the consideration of the above-mentioned questions, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

A. Status of technological innovations in the United Nations

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly requested in its resolution 45/254 C of 21 December 1990 that an updated report on the status of technological innovations in the United Nations be submitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/1 and Corr.1) summarizes developments in technological innovations during 1991.

3. As stated in paragraph 3 of the report, the Secretariat has continued its efforts to place a computer on the desk of each staff member (excluding trades and crafts and security staff). For example, the Committee notes that it is expected that 3,000 computers will have been installed at Headquarters, by the end of 1991, which represents an increase of 1,400 during the biennium 1990-1991; the number of computers at Headquarters is expected to increase to 4,000 in the biennium 1992-1993.

4. The Committee was not fully convinced of the need for one computer per staff member in view of the different tasks performed by departments and the wide range of functions of staff who may not always require a computer in their work assignments. The Committee notes that the General Assembly has not

set an implementation target for automation and cautions against the concept of one computer per staff member throughout the Secretariat.

5. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that so far there are no criteria for the allocation of computers, which are provided to departments according to their requests. The Committee points out that there is a need for a systematic approach in the development of desktop technology with guidelines and criteria based on actual operational needs, taking into account the current status of office automation. The Committee therefore recommends that the Electronic Services Division develop a long-term strategy on automation based on the specific needs of each department according to the tasks to be performed to ensure a more rational distribution of desktop technology.

6. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the report, the Electronic Services Division purchased a limited supply of laptop and notebook computers together with portable printers to support staff on mission, including peace-keeping operations, and for conferences. The Committee notes that sizeable computer installations are planned for 1992 for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The Committee trusts that such equipment will enable a smaller number of staff to meet conference requirements in a more timely manner and to perform in peace-keeping operations more effectively.

7. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the standard price for a class III microcomputer, including maintenance and printer, is $4,100 at 1992-1993 rates. The Committee is of the view that the above budgeted amount is high in view of the declining market prices for computers and that computers of a good quality can be acquired commercially at lower cost, taking into account their short life-span and the large-scale needs of the Organization.

B. Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations

8. The Advisory Committee recalls that in 1989 the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union decided by resolution 50:

> "that the United Nations telecommunication network may carry the traffic of the specialized agencies which participate voluntarily on condition that the specialized agencies would pay for the telecommunications service based on the expenses of operating the service by the United Nations and tariffs, established by administrations within the framework of current regulations and practices;" (See A/C.5/46/5, annex II.)

The Committee welcomes the fact that the United Nations is taking the lead to act as a common carrier for the telecommunications of the specialized agencies and the organs, offices and programmes of the United Nations. The Committee notes that a well-functioning service may result in significant savings to Member States in the long term.

9. The Committee was informed that the operational arrangements for implementation of the proposed global telecommunications network for the United Nations common system have not yet been worked out owing to a lack of information from the specialized agencies regarding their participation and requirements. The Committee notes that a questionnaire was sent to all United Nations agencies to assess existing traffic patterns for various telecommunications services and projected requirements; however, the responses did not cover regional and field offices and the information relates to only 21 locations with estimated telecommunications expenditures of $40.1 million system-wide (ibid., annex I, table 3) while the total activities are estimated to amount to at least $100 million a year (ibid., para. 44).

10. Furthermore, a detailed breakdown of telecommunications expenditures per individual country is not available. The Committee further notes that table 4 of document A/C.5/46/5, annex I, indicates 36 locations justifying United Nations common network nodes where there is heavy telecommunications traffic; this does not cover a large number of regional and field offices on which no information is available. As indicated in paragraph 50 of the Secretary-General's report (ibid.), during the period 1991-1992 a more thorough study would be conducted to assess the requirements of United Nations offices in the 36 locations referred to above and of all other offices not covered by previous surveys.

11. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that in view of the lack of basic information and the uncertainty with regard to the scope of a global telecommunications network depending on traffic projections and usage by the agencies, the Electronic Services Division was at present not in a position to submit a detailed cost estimate for implementation of the project. The Committee notes that as a result, in terms of reliability, quality and cost-effectiveness it is not possible to compare the proposed United Nations global telecommunications network with existing national/commercial facilities. The Committee further notes that the United Nations has not received any commitments from user agencies and that the contractual relations with other users and the financing of the project are uncertain. Bearing in mind that the use of the United Nations telecommunications network is on a voluntary basis, the standard financial arrangements therefore need to be worked out with the specialized agencies based on their traffic projections and usage.

12. As stated in paragraph 53 of the Secretary-General's report, "it is expected that the startup and recurrent costs associated with the operations of the network will be financed from additional income from use by specialized agencies". Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the project would only be financed by agencies once the global telecommunications network is fully operational. The Committee points out that as a result the United Nations first would have to pay the startup costs which might be reimbursed by the agencies following operation of the expanded United Nations network.

13. In view of what is stated above, the Committee believes that the operational arrangements for implementation of a common carrier system need to be further developed together with detailed cost estimates, in close consultation with the specialized agencies. At such time as the operational plan is clearly worked out and agreed to by the specialized agencies, a comprehensive proposal for expansion of the existing telecommunications

network should be submitted in a report to the General Assembly, including the implementation schedule, cost estimates and plan of financing.

14. The report should also contain a cost-benefit analysis, comparing the rates of national/commercial communication carriers with the current and proposed rates of the United Nations network for comparable service and maintenance lines. In this connection, the Committee recalls its recommendation in paragraph 33D.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ that "given developments in technology and the changes in rates charged by national/commercial carriers, the Committee trusts that the report [of the Secretary-General] will include an analysis of the merits of the United Nations maintaining or expanding its existing network". This information has not been provided in the current report of the Secretary-General and should be included in the next report.

15. In the meantime, the Committee recalls that the estimate for section 33D (Office of General Services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 includes provisions for telecommunications services as indicated in paragraph 33D.35 thereof, 2/ namely the provision of telecommunications facilities to United Nations offices and to organizations within the United Nations system and telecommunications support and network facilities to the Organization.

16. With regard to the proposed satellite earth station sub-network, the Committee notes from paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/5) that four additional earth stations are planned. The Committee was informed that the project was intended to provide reliable, independent communication links in case of emergencies and for support of peace-keeping operations. Considering the high average costs of one medium-scale earth station of over $600,000, additional staffing requirements, the increasing number of peace-keeping operations and the budgetary constraints, the Committee reiterates its recommendation in paragraph 2.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 1/ with regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for setting up a satellite earth station at Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

C. Integrated management information system project

17. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/217 of 21 December 1988, approved the implementation of phase I of the integrated management information system (IMIS) project at a total cost not to exceed $28 million at 1988 rates. The third progress report of the Secretary-General on IMIS (A/C.5/46/24) indicates the current status of the project, plans until 1993 with estimated expenditures, and the implementation schedule.

18. In this connection, the Committee points out that the content and language of the third progress report on IMIS is highly technical with excessive use of jargon and that the terminology is difficult to understand. The Committee therefore requests that the next progress report on IMIS should be presented in a more comprehensible manner, including specific data and tables on the implementation schedule and related costs.

19. The Committee notes that all potential IMIS users at Headquarters have accepted the external design of IMIS and expect improved operations in administration and management that would provide greater uniformity in the application of rules and procedures, expedite administrative actions and enhance efficiency. The Committee was informed that the advantage of the new system for regional commissions and field offices would be their ability to process administrative actions in a more consistent manner and to improve coordination and communication with Headquarters; all offices would be given the same support as an integral part of the new system.

20. The Committee notes that the developed software would be made available to other agencies and that no usage fee would be charged them; only costs incurred in making the system available would have to be reimbursed. The Committee was informed that no fees are charged for the development of the system and that costs for direct expenditures such as printing and reproduction and per diem of United Nations officials would be reimbursed. In this regard, the Committee encourages the Secretary-General to seek fair and reasonable reimbursement for actual costs incurred.

21. The Committee welcomes the interest of agencies in the effective use of IMIS, which will facilitate the development of common standards of accounting, enhance reporting and accountability and the presentation of financial statements pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/183 of 19 December 1989 and Assembly resolution 45/235 of 21 December 1990, as recommended by the Committee and the Board of Auditors (ibid., paras. 16 and 17).

22. With regard to the implementation of IMIS, the Committee notes from paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report that the workflow analysis, internal design, programming, conversion and installation of the new system will be completed at Headquarters by the end of 1993; at offices away from Headquarters it will be completed during the first half of 1994, once the system is fully tested and operational at Headquarters.

23. The Committee notes from paragraph 36 of the report that "it is not possible at this stage to estimate whether a revision in the total cost of the project as approved by the General Assembly at its forty-third session will be required since the actual costs of several contracts will be known only in 1992 and 1993, when the requests for proposals have been issued".

24. The Committee notes that the estimated expenditures for IMIS will be reviewed and a report submitted to the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, upon receipt of information regarding several contracts in 1992. Taking into account the continued delay in the implementation of the project since its inception and that the balance under the regular budget carried forward to the biennium 1992-1993 is projected to increase from $4.6 million to $6.1 million, the Committee sees no reason to change its recommendation in paragraph 33A.7 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ for an appropriation of $7 million from the regular budget.

25. As regards the original proposal of a total 2,000 terminals for all IMIS users at all duty stations, the Committee believes that a systematic survey should be made desk-to-desk to determine the actual needs for the effective use of IMIS.

26. With regard to maintenance of the system, the Committee notes from paragraph 50 of the report that the related costs will be examined as part of the preparation for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and cannot be indicated at present. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that there is a warranty of one year on the purchase of all hardware and software. The Committee notes that the progress report should indicate clearly the order of magnitude of costs for maintenance of the project per year on a long-term basis.

27. The savings which are expected to at least partially offset the costs of IMIS are discussed in paragraphs 49 to 51 of the Secretary-General's report. The Committee notes that staff reductions in the administrative area were higher than the average staff reduction in the Secretariat during the retrenchment exercise in anticipation of the expected improvement of administrative processes; however, there is no indication in the report which specific systems have been cancelled and which processes and procedures have become redundant. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that staff reductions as a direct result of the implementation of IMIS could not be indicated.

28. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/200 C of 21 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, indicating, *inter alia*, "the results obtained with the introduction of technological innovations, including cost-benefit analyses, utilization capacity and budgeting and accounting practices". The Committee therefore expects the Secretary-General to indicate clearly in his next progress report the effects on productivity in those units which are particularly affected by IMIS and the systems and processes that have been made redundant. The Committee further requests that the number of posts that have been reduced in the various areas should be indicated as well as new posts that will be required for other functions for IMIS users.

29. In view of its observations in paragraphs 19 to 28 above, the Committee trusts that effective measures are being taken to ensure the early completion of the project, thus avoiding further increases in costs. The Committee expects that the substantial savings and the large number of benefits referred to in the second progress report of the Secretary-General 3/ and the current report will be indicated in detail in the next report.

D. Optical disk storage and retrieval system

30. The Advisory Committee notes that implementation of phase I of the project has begun and that the system will be expanded during the biennium 1992-1993 to include additional Secretariat and remote users at Headquarters and Geneva; further expansion of the system to other conference centres, including Vienna and the regional commissions, is planned for the biennium 1994-1995. The Committee was informed that the plans for expansion of the project to Vienna and the regional commissions have yet to be developed and the costs to be determined. The Committee expresses its concern that the implementation of the project and the related costs are not known and expects that a detailed implementation schedule and cost estimates will be submitted upon completion of the project at Headquarters and Geneva in 1992. The

Committee also notes that little information was available on the telecommunications requirements and related costs which are an indispensable part of the remote use of this technology.

31. The Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/26) that 62 permanent missions to the United Nations responded to the questionnaire on data management and 52 indicated they use computers. However, it is not clear to the Committee whether all missions were contacted and whether adequate effort was made in this regard. The Committee was informed that the advantage of the project to permanent missions is limited; only 39 missions indicated that the optical disk could replace the distribution of documents and 12 missions considered the most important use to be as a source of text for the preparation of internal papers. Furthermore, the number of retrieval stations will be limited. The Committee was informed that use of retrieval stations requires the presence of an operator and that documents would be printed at the speed of one page per minute. In the circumstances, the Committee was not convinced that a large number of Member States would participate in the project in view of the limited cost benefits. However, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General follow up with the permanent missions that have not yet responded to the survey.

32. The Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report that the pace of expansion at Headquarters will be largely dependent upon the proposed implementation of a wiring and networking plan for the Headquarters complex of buildings. The Committee points out that the linkage with the wiring system is very important and that it should be carried out in such a way as to meet the needs of the Organization for computer, telephone and telecommunications activities. The Committee further notes that close coordination between the various units dealing with telecommunications activities, the integrated management information system and the optical disk storage and retrieval system is essential to ensure cost-effective implementation of the projects and compatibility of the various technologies (see paras. 43 and 44 below).

33. The Committee is of the view that there is a lack of coordination in the area of workstations which are being procured by each department. The Committee believes that there is a need for closer coordination in the planned establishment and upgrading of workstations.

34. The Committee was informed that the installation of equipment for phase I of the project will not be completed until the end of the first quarter of 1992. Taking this into account and its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 30 to 33 above, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General submit to it a report on the implementation of phase I prior to undertaking phase II (see paras. 41 and 42 below) and updated proposals for phase II. Under the circumstances, the Committee reiterates its recommendation in paragraph 32.15 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ that the estimate of $1,381,000 for phase II ($1,487,400 at 1992-1993 rates) be reduced to $1 million in view of the considerable delay in the completion of phase I of the project.

35. The Committee notes from paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, that "it is also expected that the total number of users will increase to 1,300 for the New York site and 600 for the Geneva site by the end of 1995.

Users from Vienna, Nairobi and the regional commissions will be accommodated through the upgraded United Nations telecommunications network; however, Vienna and some of other duty stations may require additional inputting workstations for documents produced at those locations". The Committee is of the view that the actual needs should be clearly determined on the basis of a desk-to-desk assessment in the relevant areas.

36. As stated in paragraphs 20 and 23 of the report, the total expenditures for the biennium 1994-1995 are projected at $6.1 million and these relate only to the development costs for additional hardware and software necessary for users in the Department of Conference Services. The Committee notes from paragraph 22 of the report that the cost of upgrading an ordinary workstation is $5,000 and the full cost to acquire a station with maximum configuration is approximately $10,000. The Committee further notes that the costs for facilities management in the biennium 1994-1995 are estimated to remain at the same level of $740,000 while the maintenance costs will increase from $226,900 in the biennium 1992-1993 to $500,000 in the biennium 1994-1995. As stated in paragraph 21 of the report, the annual maintenance costs for the equipment are estimated to stabilize at about 10 per cent of acquisition costs and the annual cost of facilities management services at $372,000; ongoing costs for the system are estimated at about $1 million after 1995.

37. The Committee was not convinced that the costs for facilities management would remain at the same level of $740,000 in the biennium 1994-1995 and decrease thereafter, taking into account the fact that the costs for rental of equipment in 1992-1993 were initially underestimated at $505,900 4/ and that with the expansion of the project the facilities management costs usually increase. The Committee is also of the view that the estimated rate of annual maintenance costs at 10 per cent of the acquisition costs is low and normally does not stabilize on the long term, but rather increases through extensive use of equipment over a number of years. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the warranty for software is three months and for hardware one year and that the estimated maintenance costs are not part of the contract.

38. The Committee expresses its serious concern that after expiration of the warranty the Organization would have to rely on the contractor who may raise the maintenance costs substantially. Bearing in mind that the costs for maintaining the equipment are not fully known at present and that those costs may increase substantially after several years, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General negotiate with the contractor prior to the signature of the contract to extend the warranty period for the software and hardware and to provide for a maximum level of maintenance costs on a long-term basis (long-term maintenance contract in excess of five years). The Committee wishes to be informed of the results of this negotiation.

39. In view of its observations in paragraphs 36 and 37 above, the Committee believes that the costs for full implementation and maintenance of the project may be substantially higher to cover all users effectively and to maintain this system at a high standard. At the same time, the Committee notes that the return of investment from the project will be minor until 1995 and the long-term benefits uncertain.

40. The Committee notes from the report that the project is essentially for conference services while it was initially planned for a large number of users in various areas. The Committee points out the need for an organized assessment of the needs of all offices and the related costs.

41. The Committee is of the view that the budgetary requirements should not necessarily be entirely met from the regular budget, taking into account the potential for use in other areas, including extrabudgetary activities and peace-keeping operations. Bearing in mind that the potential benefits of the project as currently envisaged are limited, the Committee cautions against the planned expansion of the project in the biennium 1994-1995 unless the benefits have been clearly demonstrated and the total costs are established. To this end, the Committee proposes a waiting period at the end of phase I in 1992 to reassess the benefits and costs of the project.

42. The Committee therefore recommends approval of phase II of the project for the biennium 1992-1993 subject to submission of a detailed performance report on the completion of phase I in 1992 (see para. 34 above), and updated proposals of the Secretary-General for phase II which should indicate how the estimated costs could be shared with peace-keeping operations and other extrabudgetary activities.

Conclusion

43. The Committee notes that the extent of coordination in design, procurement, implementation and operation of IMIS, the optical disk storage and retrieval system and telecommunications activities is not indicated in the Secretary-General's reports on the above projects. The Committee points out that it is essential that all organizational units involved in the planning and operation of the above systems closely coordinate their activities and harmonize their existing and planned use of technologies in order to prevent future incompatibilities, given the major investment involved, so as to ensure their efficient and cost-effective use. The Committee notes that it is therefore necessary to expand and strengthen the coordinating and monitoring mechanism existing in the form of the Technological Innovations Board and its subsidiary bodies, the Technological Innovations Board's Working Group at Headquarters and the Technological Innovations Committees at Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and at the regional commissions.

44. In view of the close interrelationship between the projects relating to the implementation of advanced technology in the United Nations, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General submit one comprehensive report on the status of all technological projects covering technological innovations in the United Nations, telecommunications activities, the integrated management information system and the optical disk storage and retrieval system, thus making it more coherent and transparent. The Committee further recommends that the report should also describe the information technology strategy for the Organization on a long-term basis.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

3/ A/C.5/46/20.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. II, table 32.14.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.13

Fourteenth report

Revised estimates under section 6 (Special political questions; regional cooperation; trusteeship and decolonization), section 36 (Staff assessment) and income section 1 (Income from staff assessment)

[Original: English]

[5 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/39) in which, pursuant to a request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, he submits revised estimates under section 6 (Special political questions; regional cooperation; trusteeship and decolonization) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information from representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As stated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, "the present report attempts to supplement the information provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 on the activities carried out under the various subprogrammes by the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship", with particular emphasis on the review requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 of the activities of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes.

3. The Department's programme of work relates to three subprogrammes: Special political questions and regional cooperation; trusteeship and decolonization; and special emergency programmes. Section II of the Secretary-General's report (paras. 10-37), supported by annexes I to III, reviews the staff requirements under these subprogrammes in the context of the activities that are carried out. In several instances, the Secretary-General cites areas where activities or workload has increased (e.g. paras. 12 and 20); however, as shown in annexes I and II, in other areas, decreased outputs are projected for the biennium 1992-1993. The Secretary-General concludes, in paragraph 42 of his report, that on balance "there has been no significant decrease in the workload of the Department over the bienniums 1988-1989 and 1990-1991 under subprogramme 1, Special political questions and regional cooperation, and subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, of programme 4 [of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997]". At the same time, he states that staff resources allocated to these two subprogrammes have, in fact, decreased over the same period.

4. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the increase in activities in certain areas under the two above-mentioned subprogrammes is not dramatic when viewed in relation to the number of available staff. Moreover, the Committee is of the view that the statistics provided in annexes I and II indicate that it would not be unreasonable to expect a higher delivery than what is shown, given the total staffing resources available.

5. The revised estimates for section 6 amount to $9,500,500. The following compares the revised total, broken down by programme, with the initial estimate:

Programme	Estimate in the proposed programme budget	Estimate in document A/C.5/46/39	(Decrease)
	(Thousands of United States dollars at 1992-1993 rates)		
Policy-making organs	750.1	750.1	-
Executive direction and management	1 272.8	1 161.8	(111.0)
Programme of work	6 269.7	6 269.7	-
Programme support services	1 472.8	1 318.9	(153.9)
Total	9 765.4	9 500.5	(264.9)

6. As shown above, the revised estimates submitted in respect of section 6 are $264,900 (at 1992-1993 rates) lower than the initial estimates for this section included by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget; the reduction relates to executive direction and management and programme support. As discussed in paragraphs 46, 47, 51, and 52 of the Secretary-General's report, the decreased requirements are attributable to reductions under consultants, travel of staff, established posts (and common staff costs) and general temporary assistance.

7. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 46 of document A/C.5/46/39 that the reduction in consultants ($72,900 at revised 1991 rates) is the result of a further review of the activities to be carried out under programme 4 (Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization). Since, as noted in paragraph 6.19 of the proposed programme budget, resources for consultancy services for the Department as a whole are consolidated under executive direction and management, the reduction is shown under that programme.

8. A reduction of $29,800 (at revised 1991 rates) is proposed under travel of staff, as discussed in paragraph 47 of document A/C.5/46/39. As noted therein, that amount "is equivalent to the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee against the initial estimate".

9. A negative growth of $23,200 (at revised 1991 rates) is proposed under general temporary assistance, as stated in paragraph 52 of document A/C.5/46/39; the balance of the total reduction is due to the proposed abolition of one P-2 post, as discussed in paragraph 51. The Advisory Committee does not object to the reductions under these objects of expenditure or to those discussed in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.

10. The Secretary-General is also revising his proposal concerning the conversion of 12 temporary posts to established status, with no financial implications for the proposed programme budget. As indicated in paragraph 49 of document A/C.5/46/39, the Secretary-General had proposed that all 12 posts be converted (see paras. 6.24, 6.29 and 6.32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/); however, he now proposes the conversion of 5 posts only (1 P-4 and 4 General Service) under subprogramme 1 (Special political questions and regional cooperation). That request is justified as stated in paragraph 13 of document A/C.5/46/39 by reason of the continuing nature of the activities related to the posts.

11. Despite that reasoning, the Advisory Committee recommends that the posts be maintained as temporary. In this connection, it points out that, notwithstanding the Secretary-General's statement that the overall reduction in workload under subprogrammes 1 and 2 (see para. 3 above) is not significant, the activities of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have been decreasing for years; the Advisory Committee was informed that there have been significant savings against the appropriation for successive bienniums. That being the case, it may become necessary at some point to redeploy posts from subprogramme 2 to subprogramme 1. Accordingly, and taking into account the fact that all staff may not be fully occupied (ibid.), the Committee sees no reason to increase the permanent staffing table of the Department and thus give rise to a situation not unlike the present (see para. 14 below) where it will become necessary to place staff without functions.

12. For the reasons provided in paragraphs 20 and 37 of document A/C.5/46/39, the Secretary-General withdraws his proposal, made in the proposed programme budget, to redeploy a D-2 post from the Division for Decolonization and Trusteeship to the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 6.12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, 2/ it had reiterated its view that it was not convinced that the functions of the Unit did not duplicate those activities falling within the mandate of other agencies that provide emergency relief. The Committee also indicated that when the Secretary-General's review of the Unit, called for in General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, was made available to it, with proper justification for the activities as well as the staffing of the Unit, it would revert to the matter.

13. The review has now been submitted in the context of the Secretary-General's revised estimates for section 6; as noted above, the Secretary-General now proposes that the D-2 post should be retained in the Division for Decolonization and Trusteeship. Notwithstanding the Secretary-General's assertion in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/46/39 that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 "will have an impact on the Secretariat's workload in respect of the preparation of additional reports", the Advisory Committee, on the basis of the statistics contained in annex II (see paras. 3 and 4 above), questions whether the post is essential in that Division. Under the circumstances, the Committee is not in a position to make a further recommendation at this point with regard to this post. The Committee believes that the functions of the post in the

Department should be reviewed by the Secretary-General and reported to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In this connection, the Committee understands that the post is currently vacant. Bearing in mind what is stated above, the Committee is of the view that the post should remain vacant, pending submission of the above-mentioned review and consideration thereof by the General Assembly.

14. The Advisory Committee notes that, in keeping with its previous recommendation, 3/ no provision has been made under section 6 for the salary and common staff costs of the 12 remaining staff members from the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia who are still awaiting placement within the Secretariat. However, the Committee was informed that an amount of approximately $1.3 million will be reported in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1) in respect of such staff. The observations of the Committee in this regard will be submitted in the context of its report on the final performance report. However, at this time, it wishes to reiterate that, as provided for in staff regulation 1.2, staff members are subject to the authority of the Secretary-General and to assignment by him to any of the activities or offices of the United Nations. It therefore follows that Department heads, who are also subject to the same authority, should not refuse to accept qualified staff members seeking placement. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Committee, if such staff are in need of additional training available in the Organization, it should be provided. In the view of the Committee, it is imperative that this problem be satisfactorily resolved in the near future.

15. Bearing in mind its observations in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the reductions of $264,900 proposed by the Secretary-General against his initial estimate. In this connection, the Committee notes that some of the proposed reductions (general temporary assistance and established posts) are new, while others dovetail (travel of staff) or exceed (consultants) the reductions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6.14 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/ The Committee also recalls that, as shown in table 1 at the end of chapter I of its first report, the recommendations on the estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 made by the Committee, as applied to section 6, resulted in reductions totalling $48,300. That amount included the reduction of $32,200 (at 1992-1993 rates) under travel of staff. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the revised estimates of $9,500,500 proposed by the Secretary-General be reduced by $16,100 to $9,484,400.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).

3/ Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 and addendum (A/45/7 and Add.1-14, and A/45/7/Add.15), document A/45/7/Add.2, para. 7.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.14

Fifteenth report

Revised estimates under section 33F (Administration, Vienna) and income section 2 (General income)

[Original: English]

[9 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/36) in which he submits revised estimates under section 33F (Administration, Vienna) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that in the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General stated that "no definite agreement has yet been reached with the international organizations at Vienna, either in the determination of the assignment of functions, or the appropriate share of all users in the cost of common and joint services" and that "concrete proposals will be submitted to the Assembly during the course of its forty-sixth session". 1/

3. In this connection, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 4 of his report (A/C.5/46/36) that "no conclusive results regarding the allocation of common services among the Vienna-based organizations or the related cost-sharing arrangements have been attained to date"; in paragraph 5 he states that he "will finalize his position on the redistribution of responsibility for the various common services at Vienna and report to the General Assembly in due course".

4. With regard to the question of joint services with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Secretary-General proposes in paragraph 8 of his report "to establish separate and independent personnel, financial and general services at Vienna as of 1 January 1992"; however, as a transitional measure "it is also proposed to retain joint arrangements with UNIDO in the areas of finance and general services during the first six months of 1992". The revised estimates of $38,563,200 submitted by the Secretary-General under section 33F of the proposed programme budget reflect these proposals and include provisions for administrative strengthening related to the Secretary-General's proposal for separate United Nations conference-services arrangements, discussed in his report on the question (A/C.5/46/30 and Add.1 and 2).

5. As discussed in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/36), the establishment of separate personnel, financial and general services at Vienna would entail the establishment of 29 new posts (4 Professional and 25 General Service), the reclassification of 2 P-5 posts to the D-1 level, as well as various redeployments. It would also require the establishment of related computer systems in these areas and would give rise, *inter alia*, to other common service requirements.

6. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, these proposals warrant a careful and detailed examination in order to ascertain whether all are in fact justified. Unfortunately, the Committee has not been given the opportunity to make such a review at this session since the report of the Secretary-General was received only at the beginning of December, at a time when the pressure of work is intense. The Advisory Committee sees no reason why this report could not have been submitted by 15 October.

7. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 wherein it noted that

> "The time of the Advisory Committee and of the Fifth Committee is increasingly devoted, during the latter part of a General Assembly session, to statements of programme budget implications and other matters arising out of the work of the Plenary and of the other Main Committees. As the end of the session nears, it therefore becomes increasingly difficult to give adequate attention to the many complicated matters of far-reaching importance that are raised in the various reports of the Secretary-General.
>
> "The Advisory Committee sees no reason for the reports of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly late in the session. The Committee expects that, starting with the fortieth session of the General Assembly, unless there are special circumstances, it will, by 15 October of each year, receive all reports which require its consideration, and which are not linked to draft resolutions recommended by the Main Committees or sponsored directly in Plenary". 2/

8. In the circumstances, and pending a more detailed review of the proposals, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of $35,124,500 which it recommended for section 33F in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 3/ be maintained. It would be the Committee's intention to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on this matter.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. II, para. 33F.6.

2/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/40/7), paras. 75 and 76.

3/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 33F.14.

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.15

Sixteenth report

Revised estimates under section 32D (Conference and library services, Vienna)

[Original: English]

[9 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/30 and Add.1 and 2) in which he submits revised estimates under section 32D (Conference and library services, Vienna) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. As stated in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/46/30, the report of the Secretary-General has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/248 A of 21 December 1990. The Advisory Committee also recalls that in paragraph 32.36 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, 1/ it requested the Secretary-General to "report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the outcome of the consideration by IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] governing bodies of his proposal for a unified United Nations/UNIDO conference service under the management of the United Nations and serving IAEA for interpretation only".

3. Also in paragraph 32.36 of its first report, the Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to "include detailed information on the full cost of such a service and outline the advantages and disadvantages of this approach" and, "in the event that agreement has not been reached with UNIDO on this service," to "present a proposal for a United Nations service with a full statement of financial implications, thereby enabling the Advisory Committee to make recommendations concerning the resources required under section 32 in respect of conference and library services at Vienna".

4. As stated in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/30, IAEA has accepted the proposals of the Secretary-General on interpretation services. On the other hand, as stated in paragraph 1 of the appendix to document A/C.5/46/30/Add.2, on 22 November 1991, the General Conference of UNIDO adopted decision GC.4/Dec.20, in which it *inter alia*,

> "Recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that it defer action affecting the status of the joint UNIDO-United Nations conference services until the relevant organizations had had an opportunity to study the detailed cost analysis".

In the same decision, the General Conference

> "Requested the Director-General to continue consultations ... on the most efficient and cost-effective conference-service arrangements at the Vienna International Centre and to report to the Industrial Development Board at its eleventh session on the conclusions of those consultations".

The consultations are scheduled for June 1993.

5. In this connection, the Advisory Committee also notes the statement in paragraph 16 of the appendix to document A/C.5/46/30/Add.2 that "UNIDO is willing to continue, within any framework, consultations with the United Nations Office at Vienna on conference-servicing arrangements so that the governing bodies of the two organizations could arrive at a final decision on the United Nations/UNIDO conference services in 1993".

6. The Secretary-General, as requested (see para. 2 above), has submitted proposals for the establishment of a separate United Nations conference service and the consequential revised estimates for section 32D. As stated in paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/46/30, given the time-frame, those estimates reflect the continuation of joint services in 1992 and the establishment of the United Nations service in 1993.

7. At the same time, however, the Secretary-General reiterates in paragraph 10 of document A/C.5/46/30 that "a unified conference-service operation for the United Nations organizations at the Vienna International Centre under the auspices of the United Nations would provide the most effective, and ultimately the least costly, arrangement". The Secretary-General also emphasizes that UNIDO "has not expressed objection in principle to the establishment of a unified conference service" but has recommended that any change in the present arrangements be examined in the light of the efficiency, economy and quality of services it would bring. That being the case, the Secretary-General proposes "to continue throughout 1992 to seek UNIDO agreement to participate in a unified conference service administered by the United Nations".

8. Bearing in mind the above considerations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the current joint service arrangements continue for the year 1992. In making this recommendation, the Committee states its intention to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session detailed observations and recommendations on conference-service arrangements at Vienna with due regard to the criteria of efficiency and economy, bearing in mind the contributions of Member States to both the United Nations and UNIDO. The Committee will take into account any developments that may result from further consultations among the parties concerned. This course of action would permit the Assembly to consider and take action on the Committee's recommendations; the decision of the Assembly will be known by the time the Industrial Development Board takes a final decision in 1993 (see paras. 4 and 5 above).

9. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee further recommends approval of the initial estimate for conference and library services at Vienna as contained in the proposed programme budget, that is, $32,672,800. That amount included $6.7 million in resource growth (at revised 1991 rates), due, as reported by the Committee in paragraph 32.31 of its first report on the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, [1] largely to previous underbudgeting. On the basis of expenditure data provided to it in respect of the bienniums 1988-1989 and 1990-1991, the Committee does not object to this growth.

10. In making the above recommendation, the Advisory Committee emphasizes that the 1993 portion of the appropriation should be regarded as provisional; that is, requirements for 1993 and any related proposals for new posts will be discussed by the Committee in the context of its detailed review of conference-service arrangements at Vienna, and the recommendations it makes thereon.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/46/7).

DOCUMENT A/46/7/Add.16

Seventeenth report

United Nations Offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq

[Original: English]

[13 December 1991]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/64) on the establishment of the offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in February 1991, with the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) of 20 July 1987, the Secretary-General concluded that the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) had ended, and pursuant to his other responsibilities under that resolution, proposed the establishment of civilian offices at Baghdad and Tehran and in a third country in the region. In his letter of 28 February 1991 to the Secretary-General, 1/ the President of the Security Council indicated that the members of the Council concurred with the arrangements proposed. Accordingly, the United Nations Offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq (UNOSGI), each including three military observers, replaced the UNIIMOG operations at Tehran and Baghdad in March and April 1991 respectively.

3. On 14 May 1991, in a letter to the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's proposal to enter into commitments up to $3 million through December 1991 in connection with the above-mentioned Offices. In authorizing the commitment, however, the Committee did not pronounce itself on the means of financing that amount and stated that that question should be decided by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session upon receipt of a report from the Secretary-General, which would, *inter alia*, indicate the expenditure performance up to that point, as well as such proposals as the Secretary-General might wish to make for the continuation of UNOSGI beyond 31 December 1991.

4. For reasons given in his report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), 2/ the Secretary-General believes that the presence of UNOSGI at Baghdad and Tehran will need to be continued through 1992.

5. As stated in paragraph 7 of the report under consideration (A/C.5/46/64), and as detailed in annex I thereto, the estimated expenditure on UNOSGI for April to December 1991 will be $3,015,000. These requirements will be reflected in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1).

6. On the basis of assumptions given in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report, the Secretary-General estimates that net requirements in 1992 will amount to $4,410,400. Details of these requirements are shown in annex III to the report.

7. In paragraph 10 of the report, the Secretary-General proposes financing the operation under section 2 (Good offices and peacemaking; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 with an additional appropriation of $4,410,400, together with an appropriation of $363,100 under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

8. Proposed staffing requirements include the provision for continuation through 1992 of the 31 posts originally authorized for 1991, in addition to an increase of five posts (2 P-5, 1 P-4, and 2 local level). Details of proposed staffing are shown in annex II to the Secretary-General's report.

9. In view of the information given orally by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee does not object to the creation of a P-5 post in New York. However, with regard to the staffing requirements for the Office at Baghdad, the Committee is not convinced that the operational requirements of that Office warrant an additional P-5 post at this time. The Committee has no objection to the addition of a P-4 level post. With regard to the two new local level posts proposed, the Committee recommends that the requirement be met from redployment of local level staff available at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at Baghdad.

10. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that should the General Assembly agree to regular budget financing of UNOSGI under section 2, requirements for 1991 amounting to $3,015,000 should be reflected in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and an additional amount of $4,170,100 be appropriated under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, together with an additional appropriation of $325,400 under section 36, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1. The Committee further recommends that should this operation be financed in the manner proposed by the Secretary-General, the related requirements should be dealt with without recourse to the contingency fund.

11. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the structure of UNOSGI with a view to determining whether their mandate could be achieved through a more streamlined structure, within the resources that are available to the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the region.

Notes

1/ Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1991, document S/22280.

2/ S/23246. Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991, document S/23246.

Annex

REPORTS PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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International Computing Centre: 1992 budget estimates

1. At the 36th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that the Advisory Committee had examined the budget estimates of the International Computing Centre for 1992 in accordance with section III of General Assembly resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976 and taking account of the additional information provided by the Director of the Centre. The 1992 budget estimates, based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.40 to the dollar and an inflation assumption of 4.65 per cent, amounted to $13,053,600 as compared to $10,515,500 in 1991. As could be seen from table 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/6), the estimates included resource growth of $305,100, or 2.5 per cent. The Advisory Committee noted that the presentation of the 1992 estimates had been revised to conform to the programme budget format of the United Nations.

2. Table 2 of the Secretary-General's report showed that the five largest users of the Centre's services were the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization, those organizations together providing 84 per cent of the funding for the Centre's operations. The budget estimates also included residual income in an amount of $224,500, under "Other funds", from non-participant organizations which used the Centre's facilities. The United Nations share of the costs for the use of the Centre in 1992 amounted to $2,864,200 at an exchange rate of SwF 1.40 to the dollar. That amount would be met from the resources included in section 34 (Special expenses) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for that purpose.

3. Concerning the breakdown of the budget estimates by category of expenditure, the Advisory Committee noted that salaries and related costs in respect of the 34 existing posts for 1992 were at roughly the same level as in 1991. The estimated requirements under "Supplies" showed an increase of SwF 500,000, which was attributable to expenditures on office automation and telecommunications software. The estimated common services costs also increased by SwF 360,000 to cover additional computing and office space requirements and the cost of the electrical support system.

4. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Centre's budget estimates for 1992 and recommended that the General Assembly approve an amount of $13,053,600, or SwF 18,275,000, to cover the estimates. Regarding the presentation of the Centre's budget, however, the Advisory Committee felt that the summary of estimates by object of expenditure should be more comprehensive and, in addition to the estimates, should indicate any increase or decrease relative to the previous year's budget for each object of expenditure. It would also be useful for the budget estimates to give a clearer indication of expenditures funded from extrabudgetary resources. It appeared from paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report that three Professional posts had been filled in 1990, thus reducing the vacancy rate from 40 per cent to 25 per cent. The Advisory Committee recalled that, in its report on the Centre's budget estimates for 1991, a/ it had taken the view that the Centre should be fully staffed upon completion of its reorganization in order to respond to the needs of its participants. The Advisory Committee trusted that the posts still vacant would be filled very shortly. (See A/C.5/46/SR.36, paras. 35-38.)

United Nations Fund for Namibia: scholarship programme for Namibian students

5. At the 36th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled the decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/243 B of 11 September 1990, which were summarized in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/46/10. The results of the proceedings to liquidate the United Nations Institute for Namibia would be presented in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1).

6. With reference to the scholarship programme, the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 7 of his report (A/C.5/46/10) that there had been 80 scholarship holders at 1 January 1991 and it was projected that 40 awards would be extended to 1992 and 10 to 1993. In paragraph 8 of the report and in annex I thereto, it was indicated that the total estimated cost of the programme for the period 1991 through its anticipated completion in 1993 was $2,098,000 and that the difference of $491,000 in relation to the figure of $1,607,000 reported to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session b/ was to be explained by the increasing costs of education and the repatriation of students as well as by the fact that several students would need extra time to complete their degrees. With regard to the Nationhood Programme, six of the ongoing training projects were to be completed in 1991, four in 1992, one in 1993 and two in 1994. Their total cost was estimated at $3,385,300, as stated in paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/46/10.

7. As indicated in annex III to document A/C.5/46/10, it was projected that by the end of 1994 the United Nations Fund for Namibia would report a surplus of $2,673,400 under the Nationhood Programme Account and a deficit of $205,700 under the General Account, resulting in a net surplus of $2,467,700. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the completion earlier than anticipated of the assistance project at the Namibia Secondary Technical School at Loudima, the Congo, should enable further substantial savings to be made.

8. The Secretary-General stated that it was his intention, should the need arise, to review with the United Nations Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia the possibility of absorbing the deficit under the General Account within the overall fund balance. The Advisory Committee had no objection to that proposal and noted that no appropriation would thus be required under the regular budget. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would continue to monitor closely the individual scholarship programme and the various training projects to ensure that they were completed as scheduled. (See A/C.5/46/SR.36, paras. 41-44.)

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute in document A/46/334

9. At the 36th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in the amount of $220,000 for 1992. He stressed once again that every effort should be made to secure unrestricted contributions and to charge a fair share of the Institute's support costs to

tied contributions so that the cost to the regular budget could be minimized. (See A/C.5/46/SR.36, para. 49.)

Establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek

10. At the 36th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee indicated that the Advisory Committee had taken note of the Secretary-General's report on progress towards the establishment of a United Nations information centre at Windhoek (A/C.5/46/14). The Advisory Committee had been informed that a number of applications had been submitted for the post of Director of the centre and that an appointment was expected to be made before the end of the year. The Advisory Committee had also been informed that the resources allocated to the centre for 1991 would probably not be utilized in full. On the basis of that information, the Fifth Committee might wish to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report issued as document A/C.5/46/14. (See A/C.5/46/SR.36, para. 69.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/46/690, para. 13), concerning agenda item 131*

11. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that in the draft resolution on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee should hold its next session from 3 to 21 February 1992. In addition, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to publish and disseminate widely the Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States. The conference-servicing requirements for the session in New York was $298,000 and, since that amount was covered under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, no additional appropriations were required. (See A/C.5/46/SR.46, para. 54.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/46/640, para. 14), concerning agenda item 74**

12. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects would call for no additional appropriations under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.46, para. 57.)

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* Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

** Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/46/L.27 and L.28, concerning agenda item 19*

13. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the programme of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted annually by the General Assembly. In paragraph 6 of his statement (A/C.5/46/57), the Secretary-General pointed out that the full cost of implementing the programme of regular activities under draft resolution A/46/L.27 in 1992 was estimated at $309,000, and that a detailed breakdown of that estimate was provided in the annex to the statement. However, in paragraph 13 the Secretary-General indicated that no more than $216,300 would be required, an amount within the provisions of section 6 (Special political questions; regional cooperation; trusteeship and decolonization) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The adoption of draft resolutions A/46/L.27 and L.28 by the Assembly would therefore call for no additional appropriations under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.46, para. 61.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution B submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/46/641, para. 22), concerning agenda item 75**

14. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the draft resolution on United Nations public information policies and activities had been adopted by the Special Political Committee without a vote on the basis of the information reproduced in document A/C.5/46/50 and the annex thereto. The Advisory Committee wished to point out that the adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to estimated expenditures of $892,100 under the regular budget but that no additional appropriations would be required under section 31 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Department of Public Information should be instructed to implement all the activities called for in the draft resolution using the resources available to it through redeployment, including the procedures indicated in the annex to the statement (A/C.5/46/50) of programme budget implications of the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/46/SR.46, para. 65.)

Standards of accommodation for air travel

15. At the 48th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General had proposed certain modifications to the procedures governing travel arrangements. The Advisory Committee recommended that any decision should be deferred and that the Secretary-General should be requested

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* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

** Questions relating to information.

to submit a report to the General Assembly which would evaluate the current system with a view to determining whether any adjustments were needed to eliminate inconsistencies. A new system that met the objectives of the Assembly and would be applied fairly throughout the United Nations could then be introduced. In his evaluation the Secretary-General should take account of the procedures followed in the specialized agencies. (See A/C.5/46/SR.48, para. 1.)

Self-evaluation capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa

16. At the 48th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, had requested the Secretary-General to review the question of resources for the evaluation function in the regional commissions prior to the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and had decided that the post of Chief, Office Automation, at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should be an established post at the P-5 level for the biennium 1990-1991 and that the post of Evaluation Officer, also at the P-5 level, should be restored on a non-recurrent basis, subject to renewal, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Pursuant to the resolution, the Secretary-General had submitted a note on the self-evaluation capacity of ECA (A/C.5/46/37). That document contained confusing statements regarding the P-5 post of Evaluation Officer. According to paragraph 9, the post was currently vacant, although that was not the Advisory Committee's understanding. Nor was there any indication that the post had been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Retention of the post would thus require a specific decision by the Assembly. (See A/C.5/46/SR.48, para. 12.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/46/L.33 to L.35, concerning agenda item 33*

17. At the 49th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee said that he had been informed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that no additional appropriations would be required as a result of the adoption of draft resolutions A/46/L.33 to L.35 outlined in document A/C.5/46/59. (See A/C.5/46/SR.49, para. 1.)

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* Question of Palestine.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/46/L.25, L.31, L.32 and L.41 to L.43, concerning agenda items 102 and 37*

18. At the 50th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee said that he had been informed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that adoption of the draft resolutions would not give rise to any additional appropriations for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.50, para. 2.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A and B contained in document A/46/L.30, concerning agenda item 31**

19. At the 51st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that draft resolutions A and B contained in document A/46/L.30 related to subprogramme 1 (Good offices and peacemaking) of programme 1 (Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. c/

20. The Advisory Committee noted the comment in paragraph 3 of the statement (A/C.5/46/62) of programme budget implications of the draft resolutions that while resources were provided in the programme budget for activities in support of the Secretary-General's functions in the area of international peace and security, related activities were often not programmed since their very nature precluded such an approach, as was true in the case of activities to promote peace in Central America.

21. During the course of a biennium the Secretary-General entered into commitments pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for that biennium, and the commitments were then reported to the Assembly in the context of a performance report on the programme budget for the biennium. In that connection, the Secretary-General stated that an estimated commitment of $964,400 would be reflected in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1).

22. The Secretary-General had estimated that requirements amounting to $761,500 related only to draft resolution A, since in draft resolution B the provision, as appropriate and within available resources, of technical and financial support to the Central American Governments for the purpose of consolidating peace, freedom, democratization and development would be requested.

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* United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa [item 102].

Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa [item 37].

** The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives.

23. In order to implement draft resolution A, the Secretary-General would be required to undertake certain activities specified in the statement of programme budget implications. To that end, the Secretary-General was requesting the establishment of one P-5 post, one P-4 post and one General Service post on a non-recurrent temporary basis for one year, together with the provision of additional travel funds, office automation equipment, and consultancy services relating to the establishment of the new civilian police in El Salvador.

24. The Secretary-General maintained that the increased workload in the Secretariat, which motivated the request for the posts, related to other regions in addition to Central America.

25. The provision of $278,400 for consultants related to the services of three consultants for a period of 60 working days per year, with associated travel costs. The provision of $219,900 for travel of staff related to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, the director concerned and an observer, as well as to other staff members.

26. The Advisory Committee had concluded, however, that the resources requested were not justified. Of the temporary posts requested, only the P-5 post and the General Service post should be approved, as temporary posts for 1992 only. The Advisory Committee did not object to the provision of $5,000 for office automation equipment. Given that it was difficult to predict exact requirements, the Secretary-General should continue to deal with travel of staff and consultants under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, with the actual requirements and expenses being indicated in a performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

27. The Advisory Committee was therefore recommending that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A, an additional appropriation of $163,300 would be required under section 2 (Good offices and peacemaking; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, an amount of $35,000 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). In that connection, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's view that the additional requirements related to the maintenance of peace and security and should be treated outside the procedures governing the use and operation of the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/46/SR.51, paras. 5-13.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions II, III, VII and XIX and draft decision II submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/721, paras. 102 and 103), concerning agenda item 98*

28. At the 51st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that under draft resolution VII, the General Assembly would decide that the World Conference on Human Rights should be convened at Berlin for a period of two weeks in 1993; that the Preparatory Committee should meet for three further sessions at Geneva, twice in 1992 and once in 1993; and that the Secretary-General should give the Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations system.

29. The Secretary-General had estimated total requirements for the preparatory activities and the Conference at $6,040,400. Of that amount, $4,049,400 related to conference-servicing costs under section 23 (Economic Commission for Africa), section 24 (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), section 26 (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) and section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, $525,000 related to public information costs under section 31 (Public information), and $1,466,000 related to other costs under section 28 (Human rights).

30. With regard to the amount of $4,049,400 for conference servicing, the Advisory Committee recalled that provisions totalling $452,400 had been made for regional meetings under sections 23, 24 and 26. The estimate of $3,597,000 for conference-servicing costs under section 32 would not give rise to any requirement for additional resources under that section.

31. With regard to non-conference-servicing costs, under section 28 of the proposed programme budget the Advisory Committee had recommended provisional approval for the inclusion of a non-recurrent amount of $1.5 million under the object of expenditure "Conference preparations". The estimate of $1,466,000 for non-conference-servicing costs was therefore covered in that overall amount, thus achieving a saving of $34,000 under section 28.

32. The Advisory Committee, while it had not recommended any further reductions under section 28, was of the opinion that there were a number of areas where savings could be achieved. For example, given that the Conference

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* Human rights questions:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives.

was likely to last 10 days, the Advisory Committee questioned the need for a provision for general temporary assistance for a period of eight months, as proposed by the Secretary-General. Similarly, the request of $100,000 for external printing was high, given that the introduction of in-house printing facilities should make for savings in that area. Adjustments were also possible in resource requirements for other items of expenditure such as electronic data-processing equipment, while the need for a monetary human rights prize of $10,000 was questionable; a more symbolic and less expensive substitute should be found.

33. Under the provision for public information activities, an amount of $75,000 was being requested for fellowships for journalists in addition to the provision of $25,000 already included under section 31. Since an amount of $259,800 at revised 1990-1991 rates had been included for such fellowships in the proposed programme budget, the entire requirement for that item could be accommodated from within existing resources. The Advisory Committee also believed that a more cost-effective approach could be taken with regard to the production and distribution of information materials. Accordingly, the estimate under section 31 could be reduced to $400,000.

34. Draft resolution II and draft decision II related to financing from the regular budget of activities of two treaty bodies, under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, respectively. Should the draft resolution and the draft decision be adopted, a number of steps would need to be taken by States parties to amend the Conventions before the General Assembly could take a decision to transfer the costs relating to the functioning of the two bodies to the regular budget. Although no additional appropriations would be required for the time being, once the amendment process had been completed the related estimated costs, as indicated in paragraphs 36 to 39 of the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/46/58), would be submitted to the General Assembly. In that connection, the Advisory Committee had not yet had time to consider the information submitted by the Secretary-General on the methods of financing treaty bodies under the seven international human rights instruments in force that provided for monitoring of treaty implementation by expert bodies.

35. With respect to the requirements of $900,000 under draft resolution III on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage. Once States parties had determined the duration of future meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Secretary-General would submit appropriate proposals for additional costs to the General Assembly.

36. The activities proposed in draft resolution XIX, on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, related to programmes 35 (Promotion and protection of human rights) and 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 c/ and to sections 28 and 31 of the proposed programme budget. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution XIX, no additional appropriations would be required.

37. By way of clarification, the Chairman said that the Advisory Committee was recommending an additional appropriation of $400,000 in respect of the

World Conference on Human Rights under section 31, rather than the $525,000 requested by the Secretary-General. The statement of programme budget implications indicated a net reduction of $34,000 under section 28. Accordingly, the total amount for the budget as a whole was the net of the additional appropriation of $400,000 under section 31 and the reduction of $34,000 under section 28. (See A/C.5/46/SR.51, paras. 16-24 and para. 26.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/737, para. 10), concerning agenda item 87*

38. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/60) of programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The activities which the Secretary-General would undertake in response to the requests contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft resolution were outlined in paragraph 4 of the statement and the related requirements for 1992 were estimated at $424,500. Four temporary, non-recurrent posts - one D-1 post, one P-4 post and two General Service posts - would be required, as would provision for consultants, overtime, common staff costs, travel of staff, contractual translation and printing, general operating expenses, supplies and materials and office automation equipment.

39. The Secretary-General indicated that coordination of the related activities had not been envisaged in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, nor was there a related provision under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and coordination) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In requesting support from the regular budget in 1992, the Secretary-General also stated that, should the coordinating activities relating to the Joint Plan of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster extend beyond 1992, he proposed to seek to identify alternative financing as indicated in paragraph 8 of the statement of programme budget implications. Proposals in that regard would be included in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The Advisory Committee noted that such an approach was in line with the draft resolution, which called upon the United Nations system for assistance, and recalled that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in its decision 91/23 of 25 June 1991, requested UNDP assistance in that area.

40. The Advisory Committee had been informed that, during the current year, support had been given to the Secretary-General's efforts through the use of a P-5 post loaned from the United Nations Environment Programme and a P-4 post from the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat. However, those arrangements had either already ended or were about to end. Hence the request for temporary posts.

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* International cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

41. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee did not object in principle to the request for support from the regular budget in 1992. However, it trusted that the recourse to alternative financing either from the United Nations Chernobyl Trust Fund or through contributions from other parties would be vigorously sought.

42. As to the actual level of support being requested, the Advisory Committee noted that the staff would be working under the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, who had been designated as the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl. It had sought information as to the reason for providing a post at the D-1 level, but no explanation had been provided. It therefore believed that posts at the P-5 and P-4 levels should be sufficient. It was also of the view that one General Service post should be provided. In that connection, it noted that the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had in her immediate office four Professional and eight General Service posts, and that one of the functions of the office, according to the proposed programme budget, was to assist the Director-General in all her functions, including ad hoc responsibilities assigned to her by the Secretary-General.

43. The Advisory Committee did not object to the other provisions being requested in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/46/60. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly be informed that, should it adopt the draft resolution, an additional, non-recurrent appropriation of $414,700 would be required under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, $68,600 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The additional requirement of $414,700 would be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund. Accordingly, any additional appropriations required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly by the end of the current session (see A/C.5/46/81 and Corr.1). (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, paras. 46-51.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution VII submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/645/Add.2, para. 40), concerning agenda item 77 (a)*

44. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that draft resolution VII called for the convening of a United Nations/International Maritime Organization Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Draft Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages at Geneva during the first half of 1993 for three weeks. The Secretary-General, in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/46/66, estimated the conference-servicing costs at $1,439,000 and indicated that the amount would be covered under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993,

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* Development and international economic cooperation: trade and development.

therefore no additional appropriation would be requested. He also indicated in paragraph 5 that the amount of $14,700 required for the travel of representatives of national liberation movements would be covered under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the proposed programme budget.

45. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should be informed that, should it adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, paras. 53 and 54.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/721/Add.1, para. 28), concerning agenda item 98 (b)*

46. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee observed that the detailed provisions of draft resolution I were summarized in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/46/67). The activities arising out of those provisions were described in paragraphs 4 to 6. One such activity was the designation of a senior official in the Offices of the Secretary-General to act as a focal point for electoral matters (ibid., para. 4). The Secretary-General provided the estimated requirements at full cost (ibid., paras. 8 and 9): two Professional staff members (one P-5 and one P-3) and one General Service staff member would be required to provide support for the senior official (ibid., para. 9). The requirement for those temporary posts amounted to $349,600, which together with other related requirements came to a total of $526,100. However, the Secretary-General indicated (ibid., para. 10) that it was not possible to specify the exact requirement that would have to be appropriated under the regular budget until such a senior official had been designated and the relevant programme of work developed. It was therefore his intention to seek authority, if necessary, from the Advisory Committee to enter into the necessary commitments in 1992.

47. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in question, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, paras. 56 and 57.)

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* Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/645/Add.6, para. 39), concerning agenda item 77 (e)*

48. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General had indicated in paragraph 7 of his statement (A/C.5/46/69) of the programme budget implications of draft resolution II that international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait would give rise to an estimated requirement of $185,900. In paragraph 9 of the statement, the Secretary-General indicated that it would be his intention to seek voluntary contributions to enable him to carry out the tasks enumerated in the draft resolution.

49. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; the Assembly should note that, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement, the extent to which the Secretary-General would be able to discharge his mandate would depend in large measure upon his success in obtaining voluntary contributions. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, paras. 60 and 61.)

Programme budget implications of draft decisions I and III submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/727/Add.2, para. 34), concerning agenda item 12**

50. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the programme budget implications of draft decisions I and III would give rise to an estimated additional expenditure of $398,900. The full estimate for the biennium 1992-1993 would amount to $489,500. However, as the Secretary-General had indicated in paragraph 9 of his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/46/70), the resources requested under subprogramme 19 of section 23 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would partly cover the costs involved. Accordingly, adoption of the two draft decisions would require an additional appropriation of $398,900 under section 23, and an amount of $16,100 under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment), subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, para. 63.)

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* Development and international economic cooperation: environment.

** Report of the Economic and Social Council.

Programme budget implications of draft decision I submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/727, para. 42), concerning agenda item 12*

51. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that draft decision I would give rise to additional expenditures of $73,500, to be dealt with in accordance with the procedures established for the use of the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, para. 66.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/728, para. 9), concerning agenda item 78**

52. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that no additional appropriations would be required under the proposed programme budget in respect of the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, para. 69.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/645/Add.8, para. 17), concerning agenda item 77 (g)***

53. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, as the Secretary-General had indicated in paragraph 7 of his statement (A/C.5/46/73), the activities provided for in draft resolution I would give rise to additional expenditures of $47,000 under section 19 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, para. 72.)

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* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

*** Development and international economic cooperation: human settlements.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.54, concerning agenda item 82*

54. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's statements in paragraphs 4 and 5 of document A/C.5/46/75. (See A/C.5/46/SR.53, para. 77.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/733, para. 11), concerning agenda item 83**

55. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, when the General Assembly had adopted on 21 December 1990 its resolution 45/185 concerning the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretary-General to provide information concerning the Trust Fund for the Decade and the staffing requirements of the Decade secretariat, in order to ascertain that sufficient resources were available in the Trust Fund to finance the activities envisaged by the Secretary-General. To date that information had not been provided. When the Advisory Committee had taken up the statement in document A/C.5/46/61, it had been informed that the requested information was contained in that statement. In view of the late submission of the statement, the Advisory Committee had decided to defer its review of the statement until its spring session in 1992, when it would examine the justification of the estimated $1.7 million proposed by the Secretary-General to be financed from the Trust Fund and when it would have to be satisfied that there were sufficient funds to finance the activities specified in document A/C.5/46/61. Accordingly, no additional appropriations would be required as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution. The Chairman noted that any contracts relating to the staffing of the secretariat would have to be subject to the findings of the Advisory Committee at its spring session. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, para. 1.)

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* Operational activities for development:

(*a*) Operational activities of the United Nations system;

(*b*) United Nations Development Programme;

(*c*) United Nations Capital Development Fund;

(*d*) United Nations technical cooperation activities;

(*e*) United Nations Volunteers programme;

(*f*) World Food Programme.

** International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution III submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/727/Add.2, para. 33), concerning agenda item 12*

56. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, under the terms of draft resolution III, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning regarding the inclusion of Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia in the list of least developed countries; and that estimated additional requirements of $217,300 would arise in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, to cover the travel costs of five representatives from each Member State, one in first class and four in business class, to attend sessions of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had been informed that savings of $222,300 had been made so far under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and coordination) of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Advisory Committee therefore believed that no additional appropriations were required and that the possibility of absorption under that section should be considered. It recommended, therefore, that the Secretary-General should indicate such additional requirements as might be necessary in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, para. 7.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/46/729, para. 13), concerning agenda item 79**

57. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement (A/C.5/46/74) of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, in terms of which the General Assembly would, *inter alia*, decide that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change should hold its fifth session in New York from 18 to 28 February 1992, with the possibility of holding a short resumed session in New York in April 1992. It was indicated in the statement that the activities proposed in the draft resolution had not been programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and would require the creation of programme narratives under a new subsection of the proprosed programme budget, section 11F, to finance from the United Nations regular budget during 1992 the ad hoc secretariat during the negotiating process and the follow-up of the convention.

58. The financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements for the proposed activities were discussed in the statement, in which it was noted that, by its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly had decided that the negotiating process should be funded from existing United Nations budgetary resources, without adversely affecting its programmed activities, and from voluntary contributions to a trust fund established

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* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind.

specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations. That resolution had been adopted without a statement of programme budget implications, and Secretariat support to the negotiating process had, accordingly, been provided through a number of ad hoc and specific arrangements, listed in paragraph 6 of the statement.

59. For the reasons listed in paragraph 14 of the statement, the estimate of $915,500 for conference-servicing costs under section 32 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would not give rise to additional appropriations under that section. The Advisory Committee noted, however, that under the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, United Nations bodies should meet at their respective headquarters. Since the established headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was at Geneva, the holding of its sessions in New York would not only require an exception to the provisions of resolution 40/243, but, as the Advisory Committee had been informed, would entail expenditures 6 per cent higher than at Geneva.

60. The non-conference-servicing costs amounted to $1,296,000, as proposed in paragraph 7 of the statement, with staff costs for general temporary assistance amounting to $949,000. The Advisory Committee recommended, for those requirements, the provision of five Professional posts for 12 work-months each, one D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3, as well as four General Service posts. The related resource requirements amounted to $829,300. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended that steps should be taken to ensure the full utilization of the extrabudgetary resources of all participating organizations, both before and after the signing of the convention in June 1992.

61. The Advisory Committee understood that activities arising out of the implementation of the convention would be covered by the administrative and financial arrangements stipulated in the convention itself.

62. In summary, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the proposed programme of work would be added under the new subsection of the proposed programme budget and that additional expenditure under that subsection would amount to $1,176,300, in connection with the activities of the ad hoc secretariat. That amount was to be considered in accordance with the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

63. The Chairman said that the Advisory Committee had discussed the question of whether it was necessary to budget for 12 months and had reduced the number of work-months proposed by the Secretary-General for both Professional and General Service staff. Any follow-up activities arising out of the implementation of the framework convention on climate change would have to be financed in accordance with the administrative and financial arrangements laid down in the convention itself. Follow-up activities which fell within the responsibility of the Secretary-General, such as reporting to the General Assembly on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, would have to be financed from the regular budget. The contracting parties could not be expected to meet such costs.

64. The Chairman pointed out that the draft resolution had been orally revised to provide a mandate for activities for the whole of 1992. The planned conference was bound to give rise to follow-up activities and, although the scale of such activities might be open to question, the Secretary-General would be required to report to the General Assembly and some provision for staffing requirements must therefore be made. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 10-15, 21 and 26.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/704/Add.1, para. 24), concerning agenda item 94 (b)*

65. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee, having considered the Secretary-General's statement in document A/C.5/46/76 on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, noted that in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to recommend that a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice should be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, that the Commission should hold its inaugural meeting during 1992, and that the funds necessary for the work of the new commission should be made available within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Secretary-General estimated the additional requirements at $107,000, consisting of $79,000 for travel of 40 commission members to the annual session, and $28,000 for travel of six experts from least developed countries. In that connection, the Advisory Committee recalled section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 concerning procedures for adminstrative and budgetary matters. Recent experience underscored the need for adherence to that text, and the Advisory Committee believed that it might even require some strengthening.

66. In response to the request in paragraph 7 of draft resolution I that the Secretary-General take the necessary action and provide resources for the effective functioning of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme from within overall United Nations resources, the Secretary-General pointed out in paragraph 8 (b) of his statement that the structural administrative and budgetary aspects of the planned restructuring of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, as well as the issues of the workload and other aspects of the functioning of the Branch, would require a separate management review, and that proposals would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

67. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that an effort should be made to absorb the additional requirement of $107,000 within the existing resources of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, without affecting the effective functioning of that programme as mandated by the General Assembly.

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* Social development: crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Secretary-General should indicate such additional requirements as might be necessary in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The adoption of the draft resolution, therefore, would not necessitate additional appropriations at the current stage.

68. In response to a request for clarification regarding his reference to General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, section VI, the Chairman said that the Advisory Committee was simply trying to communicate to the Fifth Committee its concern at a tendency by the other Main Committees to make budgetary proposals that were better left to the Fifth Committee. If the members of the Fifth Committee had the same impression, they could act upon it. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 33-55 and 37.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/46/704/Add.1, para. 24), concerning agenda item 94 (b)*

69. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee, having considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/46/77) of the programme budget implications of draft resolution II, concerning the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), noted that in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were provided to UNAFRI within the overall appropriations of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to enable the Institute to carry out, in full and on time, all its mandates. In addition to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, located at Rome, which had an overall mandate for research in that area, all four regional United Nations institutes on crime prevention, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, were financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations. In accordance with the statute of UNAFRI, its administrative and programme costs were to be financed from the assessed contributions of African States under a specific scale of assessment, while its operational activities were to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme. However, it was clear that the situation of the Institute was precarious.

70. The Secretary-General had set out various options in paragraph 5 of his statement, explaining why approaches such as the redeployment of resources from within section 21 (Social development and humanitarian affairs) or section 23 (Economic Commission for Africa) or from other sections of the proposed programme budget would not be feasible; for the reasons given in paragraph 5 (c), the Secretary-General was proposing the provision of $180,000 under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a grant to the Institute, to assist in covering its administative costs for 1992. The Secretary-General also stated that he would report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the longer-term solution to the financing of UNAFRI. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the

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* Social development: crime prevention and criminal justice.

administrative costs of the Institute consisted mainly of staff costs for a P-5 and a P-3 post, and it believed that the $180,000 would cover the core administrative support of the Institute. However, the Secretary-General also indicated in paragraph 6 of the statement that, given the nature of that appropriation, he was not in a position to provide any alternative in case resources were not sufficient in the contingency fund other than to defer implementation of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

71. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution II, an additional appropriation of $180,000 for UNAFRI would be required under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 46-48.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.22/Rev.1, concerning agenda item 19*

72. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee was recommending that every effort should be made to absorb the amount of $55,000 requested by the Secretary-General in his statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/46/80). If necessary the matter could be dealt with in the performance report. Adoption of the draft resolution would entail no additional appropriations at the current stage.

73. By way of clarification, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee had decided that any additional appropriation would be considered in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and that at the current stage the Fifth Committee was not appropriating the $55,000 requested. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 63 and 67.)

Programme budget performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991

74. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that although the Secretary-General's report on the programme budget performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/C.5/46/46 and Corr.1) would be supported by addenda containing detailed reporting on each expenditure section and each income section, these could not be made available to the Committee at that stage. The Advisory Committee noted that, as in the past, the scope of the report was financial only and would be supplemented by a report on programme implementation, which would be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

75. The Advisory Committee noted from paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report that "taking into account the actual expenditure and income recorded at the time of the preparation of the present report", the projected expenditure for the biennium 1990-1991 is $1,781,185,400 on a net basis ($2,181,841,600 gross). This compared with the net amount of $1,752,318,300 ($2,134,072,100 gross) decided upon by the General Assembly in its resolutions 45/252 A and B of 21 December 1990. On that basis, there would be a net increase of $28,867,100, resulting from an increase of $47,769,500 under the expenditure sections, partially offset by an increase of $18,902,400 under the income sections.

76. The increase of $18,902,400 projected under the income sections was discussed in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report. As indicated therein, increases had been reported under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) and income section 3 (Revenue-producing activities), while a decrease in income section 2 (General income) had been projected. The net increase under income section 3 was the result of increased revenue in the United Nations Postal Administration and the sale of publications, partly offset by an additional expenditure of $3.1 million which represented the cost of the first phase of a project for the renovation of the First Basement Concourse of the General Assembly Building at Headquarters. Following consideration of a proposal in this regard by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee, as indicated in the report, had concurred in the Secretary-General's entering into commitments up to $3.1 million for that purpose.

77. The increase of $47,769,500 in expenditure requirements was broken down in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report according to major factors: rates of exchange, inflation, decisions of policy-making organs and other changes. The Secretary-General also provided a breakdown of this increase by object of expenditure; as shown in paragraph 4, the amount of $47,769,500 resulted from increases under a variety of objects (the most substantial increase being in salaries and other staff costs) partially offset by decreases under printing and general operating expenses.

78. Tables 1 and 2 of annex I to the Secretary-General's report provided a breakdown of the above increase in expenditure by budget section and duty station respectively, and by the main determining factors. Tables 1 and 2 of annex II also summarized the increase by expenditure budget section and duty station respectively but with reference to the main object of expenditure.

79. As stated by the Secretary-General, additional requirements amounting to $5,991,700 were attributed to the decisions of policy-making organs; a breakdown of that amount, which was requested in connection with unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures incurred in line with General Assembly resolution 44/203 of 21 December 1989, was provided in annex III to the Secretary-General's report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee noted that an amount of $420,000 had been recorded in respect of inter-organizational security measures. As stipulated in resolution 44/203, the Secretary-General was authorized to enter into commitments for inter-organizational security measures in an amount not exceeding $300,000; above that amount the concurrence of the Advisory Committee must be sought. In view of the recent pattern of expenditure, the Advisory Committee recommended that the amount of $300,000 be raised to $500,000 in the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1992-1993.

80. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, the projected decrease of $10,091,700 in expenditures relating to more favourable exchange rates for the dollar in 1991 was entirely offset by the effects of inflation rates higher than anticipated at the time of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. d/ Paragraphs 13 to 16, supported by schedules 1 to 4, provided additional information on the rates of exchange and inflation rates, while schedule 5 showed the rates of common staff costs recorded through September 1991. As indicated in paragraph 17, the effective rates projected through the end of the biennium 1990-1991 were the same as those that would be used for the biennium 1992-1993.

81. Projected additional requirements attributable to "other changes" amounted to $41,735,400; in paragraph 8 of his report, the Secretary-General had stated that this included $20 million for projected increases in staff assessment, a large part of which related to the impact of the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the level of staff assessment, as adjusted for rates of exchange. The overall increase under "other changes" was also attributable to higher costs for Field Service posts, to costs incurred for the evacuation of staff at the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the shortfall projected for the cost of after-service health insurance coverage.

82. He said that although the Advisory Committee had discussed a number of these matters with representatives of the Secretary-General, its consideration of the performance report was greatly hampered by the absence of the supporting addenda as well as by the late submission of the main report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee also discussed the problems encountered by the Secretariat in preparing the report and the reasons for the delay in submission. While recognizing the budgetary necessity of obtaining an appropriation in respect of the additional requirements, representatives of the Secretary-General also acknowledged that given additional time, a more precise and accurate indication of actual requirements could be achieved.

83. That being the case, and bearing in mind the lack of available documentation on which it could base a recommendation as to the level of additional requirements, the Advisory Committee recommended that, at that stage, the General Assembly should appropriate a net amount of $15 million, and that it should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the remaining $13,867,100, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. The actual level of commitments would depend on the Committee's review of additional information which would thoroughly justify any such commitments. The Assembly, at its earliest opportunity, could then appropriate the necessary amounts *ex post facto*. The advantages of this approach were that the Secretariat would not be deprived of resources if, in fact, they were justified. On the other hand, an appropriation which might, in the end prove unrealistic due to lack of precision, would not be made. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 81-87.)

Revised estimates under income section 3 (Services to the public)

84. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General had recalled, in paragraph 1 of his report (A/C.5/46/79) that the Advisory Committee had agreed to his proposal regarding the renovation of the First Basement Concourse of the General Assembly Building at Headquarters, the first phase of which would be financed from projected additional revenues in the biennium 1990-1991. In making the proposal, the Secretary-General had also informed the Advisory Committee that the balance of the estimated total cost would be financed from the projected additional revenues under income section 3 (Services to the public) in the biennium 1992-1993. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the project on the understanding that a phased approach to the project would be adopted so that if the balance of the required funds, estimated at $2,433,000, did not materialize as forecast, the project could be modified so as to be completed within available funds. The Advisory Committee had also agreed that the Secretary-General should submit revised estimates under income section 3 to reflect the additional projected revenues.

85. As indicated in paragraph 14 of the report and shown in annex II thereto, the Secretary-General estimated net revenues under income section 3 at $10,778,200 for the biennium 1992-1993; that was $3.4 million more than the estimate contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. As indicated, the Secretary-General proposed to charge the additional expenditure of $2,433,000 representing the cost of phase II of the project against that amount. Consequently, the revised net revenue of $10,778,200 would be adjusted downwards to $8,345,200.

86. On the basis of the information available to it, the Advisory Committee concurred with the Secretary-General's inclusion of the expenditure of $2,433,000 in income section 3 and recommended approval of his revised estimates under income section 3. The Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in paragraph 11 of the report, the second phase of the project would be initiated when sufficient funds were available in the biennium 1992-1993. The Advisory Committee hoped that, based on income projections, it would be possible to initiate that phase immediately following the completion of phase I so as to ensure that the entire project was completed by the end of 1992, without further cost to the Organization. The Advisory Committee also noted that, during the construction period, the sales facilities would be relocated to the Public Lobby of the General Assembly Building. (See A/C.5/46/SR.54, paras. 112-114.)

Facilities management

87. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General on facilities management, e/ which it had not been able to examine during its second session in 1990, owing to the late issuance of the report. As stated in the report, the development of a globally integrated approach to facilities management was central for the administrative and financial efficiency of programme 43 (General services) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, c/ given the magnitude of the investment involved. In the past,

programme budget preparation had been based on the immediate maintenance requirements of each location in isolation, without an assessment of global needs within a coordinated programme designed to set priorities and even out over time the potential for "surges" in the need for budgetary appropriations.

88. The Secretary-General noted, however, that the failure to develop an integrated programme meant that those "scattered" appropriations would be used less effectively and that some properties might not receive timely maintenance or necessary repair and technical modernization. Accordingly, a coordinated and integrated approach to facilities management was being formulated.

89. At the same time, the Secretary-General had emphasized that such a programme would require not only coordinated, long-range planning but also adequate financial resources. The properties covered by that programme were the principal properties occupied by the United Nations worldwide, as described in the Secretary-General's report. The report also discussed implications for long-range major maintenance and the modernization of the existing buildings, and outlined the technical, administrative and budgetary basis for a globally integrated and coordinated facilities management policy.

90. The Secretary-General explained that major maintenance requirements varied with the age of buildings, the type of construction, climate and the adequacy of regular budget maintenance programmes. With a reasonably large and diverse building inventory, however, it was possible to propose guidelines for minimum annual levels of expenditure for repair and maintenance on a global basis. The report also noted that in certain countries and organizations the target rate for annual expenditure on the maintenance of buildings was set at 1.8 per cent or 2 per cent of the gross replacement cost of the structures concerned. The anticipated useful life of major building components was also used as a basis for the determination of maintenance expenses. The high level of funding involved in such an approach, however, meant that it was rarely applied in practice.

91. Paragraph 9 of the report f/ set the estimated total value of all land and buildings owned or leased by the Organization at nominal or no cost at approximately $4,339 million, of which approximately $1,652 million represented the current value of the buildings it owned. In paragraph 17, the Secretary-General pointed out that if the 1.8 per cent guideline had been applied, a maintenance budget of $59.6 million, or $29.8 million in annual terms, would have been established for the biennium 1990-1991, as compared to the actual appropriation of $8.3 million.

92. Soon, a substantial number of buildings would pass their theoretical 35- to 40-year "middle-age threshold", after which obsolescence and deterioration accelerated and buildings required increased major maintenance and repairs; the Secretary-General had concluded that increased difficulties could be expected in the next few years unless immediate steps were taken by all responsible parties involved to increase their maintenance efforts significantly. That did not mean that the budget planning basis of guideline rates should be taken as a substitute for the careful analysis of specific needs and maintenance requirements of each individual facility. The Secretary-General believed, however, that a global maintenance budget

substantially and consistently below the guideline rate was clear evidence of chronic underbudgeting and a signal of potential future problems.

93. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretary-General's intention in submitting his report was, in addition to presenting Member States for the first time with an inventory of buildings and properties owned or occupied by the Organization at the principal duty stations, to heighten the awareness of Member States of the need for a coordinated programme of facilities management and to inform them what such a programme would entail in general terms, without making a specific proposal. From paragraph 30 of the report, f/ the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General had intended to elaborate on the programme in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. While that had not proved possible, the Advisory Committee had been informed that work would be completed by the next biennium on priorities in major maintenance and that a systematic plan would be developed by the next medium-term plan.

94. In the meantime, studies were being prepared on the long-term space requirements of the Organization and the cost-effectiveness of existing leased properties, which would help determine the best way of meeting the Organization's current and future requirements. The Advisory Committee welcomed the report, which was a very useful compendium of information and a credit to the Secretariat. It contained no specific proposals: those would only be forthcoming by the next biennium. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the report was, rather, the first step towards a more coherent approach to major maintenance. The Advisory Committee accordingly urged the Secretary-General to pursue the studies indicated in his report, with a view to formulating comprehensive and viable proposals regarding the Organization's requirements with respect not only to major maintenance, but also to the related issue of long-term space requirements, in particular at its main duty stations. (See A/C.5/46/SR.55, paras. 25-32.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.55, concerning agenda item 143*

95. At the 55th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee said that he had been informed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that draft resolution A/46/L.55 had no financial implications and that no additional appropriations would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution. (See A/C.5/46/SR.55, para. 59.)

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* Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations.

The contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

96. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates which fell under the guidlines for the use and operation of the contingency fund, contained in document A/C.5/46/81 and Corr.1. The total additional requirements to be financed from the contingency fund for the biennium 1992-1993 amounted to $2,762,900. Since that amount was within the amount of $18 million available in the contingency fund for the period, the Secretary-General proposed an appropriation of the full amount required.

97. On the basis of the procedures laid down by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, the Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal. It therefore recommended that the Assembly should appropriate an amount of $2,762,900, distributed under the various budget sections as indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report. (See A/C.5/46/SR.56, paras. 10 and 11.)

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

98. At the 56th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/82) in which he submitted revised estimates resulting from changes in rates of exchange and inflation. As indicated in paragraph 4, the revised rates had been applied to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as approved by the Fifth Committee in its first reading, and to all revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications approved to date. However, that did not include the estimated amounts that would arise from the implementation of the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission; those amounts were contained in document A/C.5/46/33 and would be reported in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

99. The Advisory Committee noted that the December rates had been used in the recosting. In that connection, it had been informed that the use of the December rates resulted in a figure slightly lower than that which would have been obtained by using the average rates for 1991, and was therefore more favourable to Member States. As stated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, the overall effect of the recosting was, in round figures, a net increase of $52.9 million under the expenditure sections and an increase of $46.6 million under the income sections. The increase under the expenditure sections was attributable to increased requirements of $73.6 million in respect of inflation (ibid., para. 6), which were partly offset by savings of $20.7 million as a result of currency fluctuations. For each duty station the Secretary-General compared the rates of exchange and inflation which he was proposing together with those assumed in his initial proposal. He gave a breakdown (ibid., para. 7) of the net increase of $52.9 million under the expenditure sections by main item of expenditure, showing that $46.9 million were attributable to staff assessment, while increased requirements under established and temporary posts amounted to

$12.3 million. Those increases were partly offset by a reduction of approximately $6.3 million under non-post items.

100. The Advisory Committee noted that the net increase of $12.3 million for posts was due to a decrease of $31 million in view of changes in average levels, which took into account the most recent experience with regard to salaries and rates of common staff costs, more than offset by an increase of $43.3 million reflecting the full cost of inflationary factors on salaries in 1992 and 1993 (ibid., para. 8). Major increases had been registered at field missions, Bangkok and Addis Ababa and smaller ones at Geneva and Nairobi, while decreases had been registered at all other locations.

101. The Advisory Committee found no technical basis for objecting to the Secretary-General's revised estimates resulting from the recosting of the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation, as set out in his report, and accordingly transmitted them to the Fifth Committee for consideration and approval. (See A/C.5/46/SR.56, paras. 15-18.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.57/Rev.1, concerning agenda item 137*

102. At the 63rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.57, as contained in document A/C.5/46/83, and that the revised draft resolution in document A/46/L.57/Rev.1 contained no substantive changes but rather reflected changes in department nomenclature in the Secretariat.

103. Implementation of the draft resolution would entail, as explained in the Secretary-General's statement, three major changes to existing bodies. The first would be to transform the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (ACSTD) into a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. The new commission, which would be named the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, would be composed of 53 members and would meet for two weeks every other year.

104. As called for in the draft resolution, travel expenses would be paid by the United Nations for one representative of each Member State participating in the new Commission. In this connection, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) noted from paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/46/83 that the travel costs for a session to be held during the biennium 1992-1993 were estimated at $175,000.

105. As was indicated in paragraph 3 of the statement, ACSTD would not meet in the biennium 1992-1993. However, ACABQ was informed that, in accordance with a recent agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Burundi,

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* Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

ACSTD would have held a one-week meeting in Burundi in May 1992. In place of that meeting, the Secretariat intended to hold an ad hoc expert meeting in Burundi in May 1992. The latter meeting, which was expected to cost less than the original ACSTD meeting, would be financed from the provisions in section 18 (Centre for Science and Technology for Development) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, including, if necessary, through redeployment of resources from within that section. The actual cost would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium for 1992-1993.

106. ACABQ noted from the draft resolution that the new Commission would examine at its first session the question of funding arrangements and the modalities for the convening of ad hoc panels/workshops which would meet intersessionally. As shown in paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/46/83, the estimated requirements for the Commission in the biennium 1992-1993 did not include any provision for such meetings; ACABQ was of the view that any expenditure in that regard should be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

107. The second change called for in the draft resolution concerned a restructuring of the Committee on Natural Resources which was composed of 54 members who were representatives of Governments. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the restructured Committee on Natural Resources would be composed of 24 government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacity; as stipulated in the draft resolution, travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances, estimated at $147,000 for the biennium, would be paid by the United Nations for each member of the Committee.

108. The third change called for in the draft resolution entailed transforming the existing Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which was composed of government representatives from all Member States, into the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, composed of 24 government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacity. As stipulated in the draft resolution, those members would be entitled to travel and daily subsistence allowances. The new Committee would assume the responsibilities for energy issues with which the Committee on Natural Resources was charged. The new Committee would next meet in the biennium 1994-1995.

109. In paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/83, the Secretary-General had stated that the conference-servicing costs related to the session of the new Commission on Science and Technology and the restructured Committee on Natural Resources amounted to $992,000. They would be met from within the existing appropriation under section 32 (Conference services) of the programme budget. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 9 of his statement that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, he would report in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 the changes reflected in paragraph 8 of the statement.

110. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the above course of action. At the same time, however, it reiterated its previously stated view that outstanding issues remained with regard to removing inconsistencies in the payment of subsistence allowances to members of certain organs and subsidiary

bodies. Accordingly, as stated in its report (A/46/748), upon receipt of the requested review/evaluation of the existing system governing the rules and procedures for the payment by the Organization of travel expenses and/or subsistence allowances, the Advisory Committee would submit its related observations and recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

111. In conclusion, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1, additional requirements under section 14 (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development) amounting to $147,000 would be required; savings amounting to $231,000 were estimated under section 18 (Centre for Science and Technology for Development). Furthermore, it should be noted that it was the Secretary-General's intention to deal with those changes in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. (See A/C.5/46/SR.63, paras. 1-8.)

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 and addendum (A/45/7 and Add.1-14, and A/45/7/Add.15), document A/45/7/Add.3.

b/ See A/C.5/45/2, annex II B.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

d/ A/C.5/45/45 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

e/ A/45/796 and Add.1.

f/ A/45/796.

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